UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/1996/97
23 September 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Resumed substantive session of 1996
Item 13 of the provisional agenda*

IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 50/227: FURTHER MEASURES FOR THE RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS

Subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields

Report of the Secretary-General

SUMMARY

Pursuant to the request in Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/41, the present report gives updated information on the establishment, terms of reference, membership and composition, term of office of members, reporting procedure and frequency of meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Council and the Assembly in the economic, social and related fields.

* E/1996/93.

96-24953 (E) 241096 251096

/...

ACRONYMS

ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
WFP	World Food Programme

CONTENTS

	Paragraphs	Page
ACRONYMS		2
INTRODUCTION	1 - 5	6
I. SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL	6 - 251	6
A. Functional commissions	6 - 109	6
1. Statistical Commission	6 - 15	6
2. Commission on Population and Development	16 - 25	9
3. Commission for Social Development	26 - 33	11
4. Commission on Human Rights	34 - 65	14
5. Commission on the Status of Women	66 - 72	21
6. Commission on Narcotic Drugs	73 - 88	23
7. Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice	89 - 94	26
8. Commission on Science and Technology for Development	95 - 100	27
9. Commission on Sustainable Development	101 - 109	29
B. Regional commissions	110 - 142	31
1. Economic Commission for Africa	110 - 117	31
2. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific	118 - 124	35
3. Economic Commission for Europe	125 - 130	37
4. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean	131 - 137	39
5. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia	138 - 142	41
C. Standing committees	143 - 165	43
1. Committee for Programme and Coordination	143 - 148	43
2. Commission on Human Settlements	149 - 154	46

CONTENTS (continued)

	Paragraphs	Page
3. Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations ...	155 - 163	48
4. Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies	164 - 165	49
D. Expert bodies composed of governmental experts	166 - 188	50
1. Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods	166 - 175	50
2. Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting	176 - 180	52
3. United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names	181 - 188	53
E. Expert bodies composed of members serving in their personal capacity	189 - 227	56
1. Committee for Development Planning	189 - 196	56
2. Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance	197 - 203	58
3. Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters	204 - 209	59
4. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	210 - 215	60
5. Committee on Natural Resources	216 - 221	61
6. Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development	222 - 227	63
F. Related bodies	228 - 251	65
1. International Narcotics Control Board	228 - 234	65
2. Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women	235 - 241	66
3. Committee for the United Nations Population Award	242 - 246	67

CONTENTS (continued)

	Paragraphs	Page
4. Programme Coordination Board of the Joint and Co-Sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome	247 - 251	68
II. SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS	252 - 340	69
A. Standing bodies	252 - 335	69
1. High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries	252 - 255	69
2. United Nations Children's Fund	256 - 264	70
3. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development	265 - 274	72
4. United Nations Development Fund for Women	275 - 284	75
5. United Nations Development Programme	285 - 295	78
6. United Nations Environment Programme	296 - 301	81
7. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	302 - 310	83
8. United Nations Population Fund	311 - 320	85
9. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East	321 - 324	87
10. World Food Programme	325 - 335	88
B. Ad hoc bodies	336 - 340	90
Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa	336 - 340	90

INTRODUCTION

1. In Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/41 of 26 July 1996, adopted pursuant to its consideration of the follow-up to General Assembly resolution 50/227 of 24 May 1996, the Council reaffirmed that the review of the mandates, composition, functions and working methods of its functional commissions and expert groups and bodies, called for in paragraph 70 of annex I to Assembly resolution 50/227, should be completed by the fifty-second session of the Assembly. In the same resolution, the Council also requested the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive document compiling information on the functional commissions and expert groups and bodies and to submit it to the Council. The present report has been prepared in response to that request.

2. The General Assembly most recently examined the question of subsidiary organs in the economic, social and related fields at its forty-sixth session on the basis of a report of the Secretary-General (A/46/578). Since that time, the number, structure and terms of reference of those subsidiary organs have evolved in the context of the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields carried out by the Assembly.

3. This report presents updated information on the current status of those subsidiary bodies. For each subsidiary body, information is given concerning its establishment and terms of reference, membership and composition, the term of office of its members, its reporting procedure and the frequency of its sessions.

4. Section I contains information on the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, which have been grouped, on the basis of their institutional status, into six categories: (a) functional commissions, (b) regional commissions, (c) standing committees, (d) expert bodies composed of governmental experts, (e) expert bodies composed of members serving in their personal capacity and (f) related bodies.

5. Section II contains information on the subsidiary bodies of the General Assembly in the economic, social and related fields, which have been grouped into two categories: (a) standing bodies and (b) ad hoc bodies.

I. SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

A. Functional commissions

1. Statistical Commission

Terms of reference

6. The Statistical Commission was established by the Council in its resolution 8 (I) of 16 and 18 February 1946. Its terms of reference were set out in resolutions 8 (I), 8 (II) of 21 June 1946, and 1566 (L) of 3 May 1971.

7. In accordance with resolutions 8 (I) and 8 (II), the Commission assists the Council:

(a) In promoting the development of national statistics and the improvement of their comparability;

(b) In the coordination of the statistical work of specialized agencies;

(c) In the development of the central statistical services of the Secretariat;

(d) In advising the organs of the United Nations on general questions relating to the collection, analysis and dissemination of statistical information;

(e) In promoting the improvement of statistics and statistical methods generally.

8. In paragraph 2 of its resolution 1566 (L), the Council considered that the ultimate goal of the work of the Commission should be the achievement of an integrated system in the collection, data processing and dissemination of international statistics by the organs and agencies of the United Nations system with special regard to the requirements of reviewing and appraising economic and social progress, taking into account the needs of the developing countries.

Membership and composition

9. In accordance with paragraph 3 of Council resolution 1147 (XLI) of 4 August 1966, the Statistical Commission consists of one representative from each of 24 Member States elected by the Council on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution, according to the following pattern:

(a) Five members from African States;

(b) Four members from Asian States;

(c) Four members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Seven members from Western European and other States;

(e) Four members from Eastern European States.

With a view to securing a balanced representation in the various fields covered by the Commission, the Secretary-General consults with the Governments thus elected before the representatives are finally nominated by those Governments and confirmed by the Council. The Council may in addition appoint, in their individual capacity, not more than 12 corresponding members from countries not represented on the Commission, such members to be appointed with the approval of the Governments concerned.

Term of office

10. The term of office of members is four years (Council resolution 591 (XX) of 5 August 1955).

Reporting procedure

11. The Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

12. The Commission meets biennially (Council resolution 557 C (XVIII), sect. IV, of 5 August 1954).

Subsidiary body of the Statistical Commission

Working Group on International Statistical Programmes and Coordination

Terms of reference

13. The Working Group was established by the Council in its resolution 1306 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968. The Statistical Commission, at its seventeenth session, agreed that the terms of reference of the Working Group should be:

(a) To deal with questions of policy, coordination and priorities of the statistical programmes of the United Nations system;

(b) To constitute a means by which the Statistical Commission could maintain contact, between biennial meetings, with the work of the United Nations Statistical Office and of the statistical services of the specialized agencies;

(c) To consider current questions, relating to the United Nations system, of organization, policies, arrangements and priorities for the electronic data processing of economic and social statistics, including data banks;

(d) To consider questions regarding the statistics required for purposes of the reviews and appraisals during the Second United Nations Development Decade (E/5236, para. 207).

Membership and composition

14. The Working Group consists of the officers of the Commission, that is, the Chairman, the three Vice-Chairmen and the Rapporteur; the representatives to the Commission of the two major contributors to the budget of the United Nations unless they are already represented in the Bureau; and representatives to the Commission from other Member States selected so as to ensure representation of both developed and developing countries and countries with different economic and statistical systems, bearing in mind that special attention should be given

to ensuring representation of developing countries from among the members of each of the following regional commissions: ECA, ECLAC, ESCAP and ESCWA.

Term of office, reporting procedure and frequency of meetings

15. The term of office of members is two years. The Working Group meets biennially and reports to the Commission.

2. Commission on Population and Development

Terms of reference

16. The Population Commission was established by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 3 (III) of 3 October 1946. Its original terms of reference are set out in Council resolution 150 (VII) of 10 August 1948.

17. In paragraph 24 of its resolution 49/128 of 19 December 1994, the General Assembly decided that the Commission should be renamed the Commission on Population and Development (see also Economic and Social Council decision 1995/209 of 10 February 1995). In paragraph 23 of the same resolution, the Assembly decided that it, the Council and the Commission should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that would play the primary role in the follow-up to the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1/ and that the Commission, as a functional commission assisting the Council, would monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and international levels and advise the Council thereon.

18. According to the Commission's terms of reference, which were endorsed by the Council in its resolution 1995/55 of 28 July 1995, the Commission is to assist the Council by:

(a) Arranging for studies and advising the Council on:

(i) Population issues and trends, including determinants and consequences;

(ii) Integrating population and development strategies;

(iii) Population and related development policies and programmes;

(iv) Provision of population assistance, upon request, to developing countries and, on a temporary basis, to countries with economies in transition;

(v) Any other population and development questions on which either the principal or the subsidiary organs of the United Nations or the specialized agencies may seek advice;

(b) Monitoring, reviewing and assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development at the national, regional and global levels, identifying reasons for

success and failure, and advising the Council thereon. Such considerations shall include:

(i) Adopting a topic-oriented and prioritized multi-year work programme culminating in a quinquennial review and appraisal of the Programme of Action. That work programme, inter alia, will provide a framework to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(ii) Monitoring the implementation of the Programme of Action through periodic reports on population trends and policies, population programmes and population and related development activities;

(iii) Reviewing on a regular basis the flow of financial resources and the funding mechanisms to achieve the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action;

(iv) Undertaking a quinquennial review and appraisal of the progress made in achieving the goals and objectives of the Programme of Action and in implementing its recommendations, and reporting its findings to the Council;

(v) Maintaining and enhancing public attention and support for the implementation of the Programme of Action, through the dissemination of its monitoring, review and assessment reports in a concise and clear format;

(vi) Considering the reports of the meetings of inter-agency mechanisms established by the Secretary-General to ensure coordination, collaboration and harmonization in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

(vii) Considering reports on the activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for the implementation of the Programme of Action, in accordance with the arrangements adopted by the Council for consultation with those organizations;

(c) Providing appropriate recommendations to the Council, on the basis of an integrated consideration of the reports and issues related to the implementation of the Programme of Action.

19. In addition to those terms of reference, the Council decided that the Commission should review the findings of research and analysis pertaining to the interrelationship between population and development at the national, regional and global levels and advise the Council thereon (resolution 1995/55, para. 3).

Membership and composition

20. In accordance with Council decision 1995/320 of 12 December 1995, the Commission consists of one representative from each of 47 States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies elected by the Council on

the basis of an equitable geographical distribution, according to the following pattern:

(a) Twelve members from African States;

(b) Eleven members from Asian States;

(c) Five members from Eastern European States;

(d) Nine members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Ten members from Western European and other States.

21. In its decision 88 (LVIII) of 6 May 1975, the Council decided that, in accordance with established procedures, the Secretary-General should consult with the Governments elected to serve on the Commission about the nomination of their representatives, in order to ensure a balance in representation of the various disciplines covered by the work of the Commission.

22. In order to maintain close liaison between the Commission and other bodies concerned with population problems, it invites representatives from the Statistical Commission and the Commission for Social Development to take part in the proceedings of the Commission without the right to vote.

Term of office

23. The term of office of members is four years (Council resolution 591 (XX)).

Reporting procedure

24. The Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

25. The Commission meets annually (General Assembly resolution 49/128 and Council decision 1995/209).

3. Commission for Social Development

Terms of reference

26. The Social Commission was established by the Council in its resolution 10 (II) of 21 June 1946. As a result of a comprehensive reappraisal of the role of the Commission, the Council, in resolution 1139 (XLI) of 29 July 1966, renamed it the Commission for Social Development in order to clarify its role as a preparatory body of the Council in the whole range of social development policy.

27. In accordance with Council resolutions 10 (II) and 1139 (XLI), the terms of reference of the Commission are:

(a) To advise the Council on social questions of a general character and give particular attention to policies designed to promote social progress, to the establishment of social objectives and programme priorities and to social research in areas affecting social and economic development;

(b) To advise the Council on practical measures that may be needed in the social field, including questions of social welfare, community development, urbanization, housing and social defence;

(c) To advise the Council on measures needed for the coordination of activities in the social field and for the recording and exchange of experience among Governments in the formulation and execution of social development policies;

(d) To advise the Council on such international agreements and conventions on any of these matters, as may be required, and on their execution;

(e) To report to the Council on the extent to which the recommendations of the United Nations in the field of social policy are being carried out;

(f) To advise the Council also on vital social problems in respect of which action or recommendations may be required either by the Council itself or by the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 2035 (XX).

28. In its resolution 50/161 of 22 December 1995, the General Assembly decided that the Assembly, through its role in policy formulation, the Council, through its role in overall guidance and coordination, and the Commission should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental process in the follow-up to the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development. 2/

29. In its resolution 1996/7 of 22 July 1996, on the follow-up to the Summit and the future role of the Commission, the Council added to its terms of reference. It decided that the Commission should assist the Council in monitoring, reviewing and appraising the progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and should advise the Council thereon, and should:

(a) Improve international understanding on social development through, inter alia, the exchange of information and experience;

(b) Integrate, within the framework of the follow-up to the Summit, consideration of issues relating to the situation of social groups, including a review of relevant United Nations programmes of action related to such groups, and consideration of other sectoral issues;

(c) Identify emerging issues affecting social development that required urgent consideration, and make substantive recommendations thereon;

(d) Make recommendations regarding social development to the Council;

(e) Elaborate practical measures aimed at furthering Summit recommendations;

(f) Identify issues requiring improved system-wide coordination, taking into account substantive inputs from different organizations of the United Nations system, as well as the contributions of other functional commissions concerned, in order to assist the Council in its coordination functions;

(g) Maintain and enhance public awareness and support for the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action.

Membership and composition

30. In accordance with Council resolution 1996/7 of 22 July 1996, the Commission consists of one representative from each of 46 members from among the States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies elected by the Council on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution, according to the following pattern:

(a) Twelve members from African States;

(b) Ten members from Asian States;

(c) Nine members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Five members from Eastern European States;

(e) Ten members from Western European and other States.

In accordance with Council resolution 1139 (XLI), section IV, paragraph 1, the States elected to the Commission should nominate candidates who hold key positions in the planning or execution of national social development policies or other persons qualified to discuss the formulation of social policies in more than one sector of development. With a view to securing a balanced representation in the various fields covered by the Commission, the Secretary-General consults with the Governments selected before the representatives are finally nominated by these Governments and confirmed by the Council.

Term of office

31. The term of office of members is four years (Council decision taken at its 1651st meeting, on 12 January 1970).

Reporting procedure

32. The Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

33. The Commission meets annually (Council resolution 1996/7).

4. Commission on Human Rights

Terms of reference

34. The Commission on Human Rights was established by the Council in its resolution 5 (I) of 16 February 1946. By that resolution, as amended by Council resolution 9 (II) of 21 June 1946, the Commission was directed towards submitting proposals, recommendations and reports to the Council regarding an international bill of rights; international declarations or conventions on civil liberties, the status of women, freedom of information and similar matters; the protection of minorities; the prevention of discrimination on grounds of race, sex, language or religion; and any other matter concerning human rights. The Commission also undertakes special tasks assigned to it by the Council, including the investigation of allegations concerning violations of human rights.

35. The Commission shall also "make studies and recommendations and provide information and other services at the request of the Economic and Social Council" (Council resolution 5 (I), sect. A, para. 3).

36. By resolution 1979/36 of 10 May 1979, the Council added the following provisions to the terms of reference of the Commission:

> "The Commission shall assist the Economic and Social Council in the coordination of activities concerning human rights in the United Nations system."

Membership and composition

37. In accordance with Council resolution 1990/48 of 25 May 1990, the Commission on Human Rights consists of one representative from each of 53 Member States elected by the Council on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution, according to the following pattern:

(a) Fifteen members from African States;

(b) Twelve members from Asian States;

(c) Eleven members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Ten members from Western European and other States;

(e) Five members from Eastern European States.

With a view to securing a balanced representation in the various fields covered by the Commission, the Secretary-General consults with the Governments thus elected before the representatives are finally nominated by those Governments and confirmed by the Council.

Term of office

38. The term of office of members is three years (Council resolution 9 (II), para. 2 (c)).

Reporting procedure

39. The Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

40. The Commission meets annually (Council resolution 557 C (XVIII), sect. IV). Under the terms of the annex to Council decision 1993/286 of 28 July 1993, the Commission may meet in special session to deal with urgent and acute human rights situations.

Subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Human Rights

(a) The Group of Three established under the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid

41. Article IX of the International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid (General Assembly resolution 3068 (XXVIII), annex, of 30 November 1973) provides that the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights should appoint a group consisting of three members of the Commission, who are also representatives of States Parties to the Convention, to consider reports submitted by States Parties in accordance with article VII of the Convention. The Group may meet for a period of not more than five days, either before the opening or after the closing of the session of the Commission, to consider the reports submitted in accordance with article VII. The Group reports to the Commission.

42. Pursuant to Commission resolution 1995/10, the work of the Group of Three has been suspended.

(b) Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

43. The Working Group was created by the Commission in its resolution 20 (XXXVI) of 29 February 1980, by which it decided "to establish for a period of one year a working group consisting of five of its members, to serve as experts in their individual capacities, to examine questions relevant to enforced or involuntary disappearances of persons". Since then, the mandate and terms of reference have been renewed by the Commission each year and since 1985 for a period of two years. The most recent resolution reviewing the mandate of the Working Group is Commission resolution 1995/38 of 3 March 1995. In its decision 1995/266 of 25 July 1995, the Council approved the decision of the Commission to extend the mandate of the Working Group for a three-year period.

44. The Working Group consists of five members of the Commission, appointed in their personal capacity by the Chairman of the Commission. As at present

constituted, the Working Group has one member each from African States, Asian States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States and Western European and other States. The Working Group reports to the Commission.

(c) Working Group on Situations (which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights)

45. The Working Group on Situations was established by the Commission under the terms of Council resolution 1990/41 of 25 May 1990, which contains the terms of reference of the Working Group. It is to examine such particular situations as might be referred to the Commission by the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and to make recommendations to the Commission on the course of action to take in respect of each particular situation.

46. The Working Group consists of five members of the Commission, serving in their personal capacities, due account being taken of considerations of geographical distribution. It includes one member each from Asian States, African States, Latin American and Caribbean States, Eastern European States and Western European and other States and reports to the Commission.

(d) Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

47. The Working Group was established by the Commission in its resolution 1991/42 of 5 March 1991, by which the Commission decided "to create, for a three-year period, a working group composed of five independent experts, with the task of investigating cases of detention imposed arbitrarily or otherwise inconsistently with the relevant international standards set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights or in the relevant international legal instruments accepted by the States concerned". In its decision 1991/243 of 31 May 1991, the Council approved the Commission's decision. The Working Group is currently composed of five individual members from five different regional groups, and it reports to the Commission.

48. The most recent resolution renewing the mandate of the Working Group is Commission resolution 1994/32 of 4 March 1994. In its decision 1994/279 of 25 July 1994, the Council approved the decision of the Commission to extend the mandate of the Working Group for a three-year period.

(e) Working Group on the Right to Development

49. The Working Group was first established by the Commission in its resolution 1993/22 of 4 March 1993 to identify obstacles to the implementation and realization of the Declaration on the Right to Development (General Assembly resolution 41/128, annex) and to recommend ways and means towards the realization of the right to development by all States. The Working Group, which was to meet annually for three years and to report to the Commission, was composed of 15 experts nominated by Governments and appointed by the Chairman of the Commission on the basis of equitable geographical representation. In its decision 1993/260 of 28 July 1993, the Council approved the decision of the Commission to establish the Working Group.

50. In its resolution 1996/15 of 11 April 1996, the Commission decided to establish an intergovernmental group of experts with a mandate to elaborate a strategy for the implementation and promotion of the right to development, as set forth in the Declaration on the Right to Development, in its integrated and multidimensional aspects. The Working Group, which is to meet annually for two years, is to elaborate concrete and practical measures for the implementation and promotion of the right to development. In its decision 1996/258 of 23 July 1996, the Council approved the decision of the Commission.

(f) Working group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

51. The working group was established by the Commission in its resolution 1992/43 of 3 March 1992 to elaborate a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, intended to establish a preventive system of visits to places of detention. The working group has been established annually since then. In its resolution 1996/22 of 23 July 1996, the Council authorized the working group to meet for a period of two weeks prior to the fifty-third session of the Commission, to be held in 1997. As an open-ended working group, it is open to all participants in the work of the Commission and reports to the Commission.

(g) Working group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on involvement of children in armed conflicts

52. The working group was established by the Commission in its resolution 1994/91 of 9 March 1994 to elaborate guidelines on a possible optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on involvement of children in armed conflicts and has met annually since then. In its decision 1996/288 of 24 July 1996, the Council authorized the working group to meet for two weeks, or less if possible, before the fifty-third session of the Commission, to be held in 1997. As an open-ended inter-sessional working group, it is open to all participants in the work of the Commission and reports to the Commission.

(h) Working group on the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples

53. The working group was established by the Commission in its resolution 1995/32 of 3 March 1995 with the sole purpose of elaborating a draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples for consideration and adoption by the General Assembly within the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. In its resolution 1995/32 of 25 July 1995, the Council authorized the establishment of the working group. As an open-ended working group, it is open to all participants in the work of the Commission and reports to the Commission.

(i) Working group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

54. The working group was established by the Commission in its resolution 1995/78 of 8 March 1995 to elaborate guidelines on a possible optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. In its decision 1996/288 of 24 July 1996,

the Council authorized the working group to meet for two weeks, or less if possible, before the fifty-third session of the Commission, to be held in 1997. As an open-ended inter-sessional working group, it is open to all participants in the work of the Commission and reports to the Commission.

(j) Working group on the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities

55. In its resolution 1995/24 of 3 March 1995, the Commission authorized the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities to establish, initially for a three-year period, an inter-sessional working group consisting of five of its members, to meet each year for five working days in order to promote the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, as set out in the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities (General Assembly resolution 47/135 of 18 December 1992, annex). The terms of reference of the Working Group are contained in Commission resolution 1995/24. In its resolution 1995/31 of 25 July 1995, the Council authorized the establishment of the Working Group of the Subcommission. In its resolution 1996/23 of 23 July 1996, the Council authorized the Working Group to meet for a period of 10 working days prior to the fifty-third session of the Commission, which is to be held in 1997.

(k) Working group on a draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organizations of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms

56. The working group was established by the Commission in its decision 1984/116 of 16 March 1984 with a mandate to draft such a declaration and has met annually since then. In its resolution 1996/25 of 23 July 1996, the Council authorized the working group to meet for one week prior to the fifty-third session of the Commission. The working group is open to all participants in the work of the Commission and reports to the Commission.

(l) Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

Terms of reference

57. The Subcommission was established by the Commission under the authority of Council resolution 9 (II). The following terms of reference were set out by the Commission at its first (E/259) and fifth sessions (E/1371) and in paragraph 1 of its resolution 17 (XXXVII) of 10 March 1981:

(a) To undertake studies and to make recommendations concerning the prevention of discrimination and the protection of minorities;

(b) To carry out the duties provided for under Council resolutions 1235 (XLII) of 6 June 1967 and 1503 (XLVIII) of 27 May 1970;

(c) To review developments in the field of slavery, through its working group, and to make recommendations to the Commission;

(d) To prepare reports for use by the Commission in its examination of questions of violations of human rights (Commission resolution 8 (XXIII));

(e) To bring to the attention of the Commission, under resolution 8 (XXIII), any situation that it has reasonable cause to believe reveals a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights;

(f) To perform any other functions that may be entrusted to it by the Council or the Commission.

Membership and composition

58. The membership of the Subcommission is 26. The members are elected by the Commission from nominations of experts made by Member States on the following basis (Council resolution 1334 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968 and decision 1978/21 of 5 May 1978):

(a) Seven members from African States;

(b) Five members from Asian States;

(c) Six members from Western European and other States;

(d) Five members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Three members from Eastern European States.

Term of office

59. The term of office of members is four years.

(m) Subsidiary bodies of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

(i) Working Group on Communications

60. The Working Group was established by the Subcommission in its resolution 2 (XXIV) in pursuance of Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII). It is entrusted with the implementation of the procedures for dealing with communications relating to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms established by the Council. The Working Group meets once a year immediately before the session of the Subcommission to consider all communications received under Council resolution 728 F (XXVIII) with a view to bringing to the attention of the Subcommission those communications that appear to reveal a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The five members, who serve for one year, are selected by the Chairman of the Subcommission on the following geographical basis: one each from African, Asian, Latin American and Caribbean, Eastern European, and Western European and other States.

(ii) Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

61. The Working Group on Slavery was established by the Subcommission in its resolution 11 (XXVII) in pursuance of Council decisions 16 (LVI) and 17 (LVI) of 17 May 1974, and 1980/127 of 2 May 1980. It meets for eight working days prior to each session of the Subcommission, reviews developments in the field of slavery and the slave trade in all their practices and manifestations, including the slavery-like practices of apartheid and colonialism, the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others as they are defined in the Slavery Convention of 25 September 1926, the Supplementary Convention on the Abolition of Slavery, the Slave Trade and Institutions and Practices Similar to Slavery of 30 April 1956 and the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others of 2 December 1949. The Working Group is composed of five members of the Subcommission appointed by the Chairman of the Subcommission as authorized by Council decision 17 (LVI) of 17 May 1974. Members are appointed on the following geographical basis: one each from African, Asian, Latin American and Caribbean, Eastern European, and Western European and other States.

(iii) Working Group on Indigenous Populations

62. The Working Group was established by the Subcommission pursuant to Council resolution 1982/34 of 7 May 1982. Its terms of reference are contained in Subcommission resolution 2 (XXIV) of 8 September 1981. The mandate requires the Working Group (a) to review developments pertaining to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous populations, including information requested by the Secretary-General annually from Governments, specialized agencies, regional intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations in consultative status, particularly those of indigenous peoples, to analyse such materials, and to submit its conclusions to the Subcommission, bearing in mind the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Subcommission and (b) to give special attention to the evolution of standards concerning the rights of indigenous populations, taking account of both the similarities and the differences in the situations and aspirations of indigenous populations throughout the world. The Working Group consists of five members of the Subcommission on the following geographical basis: one each from African, Asian, Latin American and Caribbean, Eastern European, and Western European and other States.

(iv) Working Group on the improvement of the work of the Subcommission

63. The terms of reference of the Working Group are contained in Subcommission decision 1989/104 of 30 August 1989. The mandate requires the Working Group to prepare an overview and an analysis of the suggestions and proposals that have been made in order to enable the Subcommission to better discharge its responsibilities in dealing with violations of human rights. At its forty-sixth session, the Commission on Human Rights, by its resolution 1990/64 of 7 March 1990, further developed the mandate of that Working Group. The Working Group is open-ended and meets during the sessions of the Subcommission.

(v) Working Group on a draft declaration on freedom and non-discrimination in respect of the right of everyone to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country

64. By its decision 1990/123 of 31 August 1990, the Subcommission decided to establish a sessional open-ended working group with the view to continuing to work on the preparation of a revised version of the draft declaration on freedom and non-discrimination in respect of the right of everyone to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country. The Working Group is open-ended.

(vi) Working Group on the Administration of Justice and the Question of Compensation

65. The Working Group on Detention was originally established in accordance with Subcommission resolution 7 (XXVII) of 20 August 1974 in order to review the situation concerning the rights of persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment. By its decision 1994/104 of 2 August 1994, the Subcommission decided to establish a Working Group on the Administration of Justice and the Question of Compensation to replace the Working Group on Detention.

5. Commission on the Status of Women

Terms of reference

66. The Commission on the Status of Women was established by the Council in its resolution 11 (II) of 21 June 1946 to prepare recommendations and reports to the Council on promoting women's rights in political, economic, civil, social and educational fields and to make recommendations to the Council on urgent problems requiring immediate attention in the field of women's rights with the object of implementing the principle that men and women shall have equal rights, and to develop proposals to give effect to such recommendations. In its resolution 1987/22 of 26 May 1987, the Council decided to expand the terms of reference of the Commission to include the functions of promoting the objectives of equality, development and peace, monitoring the implementation of measures for the advancement of women, and reviewing and appraising progress made at the national, subregional, regional, sectoral and global levels.

67. In its resolution 50/203 of 22 December 1995 on the implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women, 3/ the General Assembly decided that the Assembly, the Council and the Commission, in accordance with their respective mandates and with Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993 and other relevant resolutions, should constitute a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism that would play the primary role in the overall policy-making and follow-up, and in coordinating the implementation and monitoring of the Platform for Action adopted at the Conference. The Assembly also decided that the Commission, as a functional commission assisting the Council, should have a central role in the monitoring of the implementation of the Platform for Action within the United Nations system and in advising the Council thereon.

68. In its resolution 1996/6 of 22 July 1996, on follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Council further modified the terms of reference of the Commission. It decided that the Commission should:

(a) Assist the Council in monitoring, reviewing and appraising progress achieved and problems encountered in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at all levels, and should advise the Council thereon;

(b) Continue to ensure support for mainstreaming a gender perspective in United Nations activities and develop further its catalytic role in that regard in other areas;

(c) Identify issues where United Nations system-wide coordination needed to be improved in order to assist the Council in its coordination function;

(d) Identify emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men that required consideration and make substantive recommendations thereon;

(e) Maintain and enhance public awareness and support for the implementation of the Platform for Action.

Membership and composition

69. In accordance with Council resolution 1989/45 of 24 May 1989, the Commission consists of one representative from each of 45 Member States elected by the Council on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, according to the following pattern:

(a) Thirteen members from African States;

(b) Eleven members from Asian States;

(c) Nine members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Eight members from Western European and other States;

(e) Four members from Eastern European States.

With a view to securing a balanced representation in the various fields covered by the Commission, the Secretary-General consults with the Governments thus elected before the representatives are finally nominated by those Governments and confirmed by the Council.

Term of office

70. The term of office of members is four years (Council decision of 31 July 1970).

Reporting procedure

71. The Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

72. The Commission meets annually to the year 2000, in pursuance of Council resolution 1987/21 of 26 May 1987.

6. Commission on Narcotic Drugs

Terms of reference

73. The Commission was established by the Council in its resolution 9 (I) of 16 February 1946, which laid down its terms of reference as follows:

> "The Commission shall:
>
> "(a) Assist the Council in exercising such powers of supervision over the application of international conventions and agreements dealing with narcotic drugs as may be assumed by or conferred on the Council;
>
> "(b) Carry out such functions entrusted to the League of Nations Advisory Committee on Traffic in Opium and other Dangerous Drugs by the international conventions on narcotic drugs as the Council may find necessary to assume and continue;
>
> "(c) Advise the Council on all matters pertaining to the control of narcotic drugs, and prepare such draft international conventions as may be necessary;
>
> "(d) Consider what changes may be required in the existing machinery for the international control of narcotic drugs and submit proposals thereon to the Council;
>
> "(e) Perform such other functions relating to narcotic drugs as the Council may direct."

74. In addition, the Commission is to perform the functions assigned to it in accordance with article 8 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 30 March 1961, as amended by the Protocol of 25 March 1972, and with article 17 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 21 February 1971, and in article 21 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 19 December 1988.

75. In Council resolution 1991/38 of 21 June 1991, the Commission was also assigned the following functions:

> "(a) To review the implementation of the Global Programme of Action annexed to General Assembly resolution S-17/2 of 23 February 1990, in

accordance with paragraph 97 of the Global Programme of Action and General Assembly resolution 45/148 of 18 December 1990;

"(b) To review the development and implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control;

"(c) To give policy guidance to the new United Nations International Drug Control Programme, based at Vienna, and to monitor its activities."

Membership and composition

76. The membership of the Commission was increased to 53 by the Council in its resolution 1991/49 of 21 June 1991, with the following distribution of seats among the regional groups:

(a) Eleven for African States;

(b) Eleven for Asian States;

(c) Ten for Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Six for Eastern European States;

(e) Fourteen for Western European and other States;

(f) One seat to rotate between the Asian States and the Latin American and Caribbean States every four years.

77. In accordance with Council resolutions 845 (XXXII), section II, and 1147 (XLI), members are elected (a) from among the States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies and the Parties to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, (b) with due regard to the adequate representation of countries that are important producers of opium or coca leaves, of countries that are important in the field of the manufacture of narcotic drugs, and of countries in which drug addiction or the illicit traffic in narcotic drugs constitutes an important problem and (c) taking into account the principle of equitable geographical distribution.

Term of office

78. The term of office of members is four years (Council resolution 1156 (XLI), sect. II).

Reporting procedure

79. The Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

80. In accordance with Council resolution 1991/39 of 21 June 1991, the Commission meets annually.

Subsidiary organs of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

(a) Subcommission on Illicit Drug Traffic and Related Matters in the Near and Middle East

81. The Subcommission was established by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in its resolution 6 (XXV). The Council, in resolution 1776 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, authorized the establishment of the Subcommission.

82. The functions of the Subcommission are to coordinate regional activities directed against illicit drug traffic and to formulate recommendations to the Commission.

83. The members are Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, Uzbekistan and Yemen. States from outside the region may attend as observers. Competent international organizations as well as other United Nations bodies may be invited. The Subcommission reports directly to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and meets annually for a period of five days.

(b) Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies

84. The function of these meetings is to coordinate activities directed against illicit drug traffic within the respective regions. Reports and recommendations are submitted to the Commission.

(i) Asia and Pacific region (Council resolutions 1985/11 and 1988/15)

85. Membership is open to any State or territory that is a member or associate member of ESCAP. Other interested Governments may be invited by the Secretary-General to send an observer at their own expense. The meeting takes place annually.

(ii) African region (Council resolutions 1985/11 and 1988/15)

86. Membership is open to any State that is a member of ECA. Other interested Governments may be invited by the Secretary-General to send an observer at their own expense. The meeting takes place annually.

(iii) Latin American and Caribbean region (Council resolutions 1987/34 and 1988/15)

87. Membership is open to any State or territory that is a member or associate member of ECLAC. Other interested Governments may be invited by the Secretary-General to send an observer at their own expense. The meeting takes place annually.

(iv) European region (Council resolutions 1990/30 and 1993/36)

88. Membership is open to any State that is a member of ECE. Other interested Governments may be invited by the Secretary-General to send an observer at their own expense. The meeting takes place once every three years.

7. Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Terms of reference

89. The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was established as a functional commission of the Council in Council resolution 1992/1 of 6 February 1992 to replace the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control. That Committee had first been established by the Secretary-General as the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee of Experts pursuant to General Assembly resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950 (annex, para. (c)), to which were transferred the functions of the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission. It was subsequently renamed the Advisory Committee of Experts on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in Council resolution 1086 B (XXXIX) of 30 July 1965. By Council resolution 1584 (L) of 21 May 1971, the name was changed to the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control.

90. Under its terms of reference (see General Assembly resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991, annex), the Commission has the following functions:

(a) To provide policy guidance to the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice;

(b) To develop, monitor and review the implementation of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme on the basis of a system of medium-term planning in accordance with the following priority principles: (i) empirical evidence, including research findings and other information on the nature and extent of crime and on trends in crime; (ii) the social, financial and other costs of various forms of crimes and/or crime control to the individual, the local, national and international community, and to the development process; (iii) the need of developing or developed countries to have recourse to experts and other resources necessary for establishing and developing programmes for crime prevention and criminal justice that are appropriate at the national and local levels; (iv) the need for a balance within the programme of work between programme development and practical action; (v) the protection of human rights in the administration of justice and the prevention and control of crime; (vi) the assessment of areas in which concerted action at the international level and within the framework of the programme would be most effective; and (vii) avoidance of overlapping with the activities of other entities of the United Nations system or of other organizations;

(c) To facilitate and help to coordinate the activities of the United Nations institutes for the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders;

(d) To mobilize the support of Member States for the programme;

(e) To prepare for the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders and to consider suggestions regarding possible subjects for the programme of work as submitted by the congresses.

Membership and composition

91. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/152 of 18 December 1991, the Commission has 40 members. Its seats are distributed as follows:

(a) Twelve seats to African States;

(b) Nine seats to Asian States;

(c) Four seats to Eastern European States;

(d) Eight seats to Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Seven seats to Western European and other States.

Term of office

92. In paragraph 24 of the annex to its resolution 46/152, the General Assembly decided that the term of office should be three years.

Reporting procedure

93. The Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council. However, the report of the quinquennial United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders is issued as a document of the General Assembly.

Frequency of meetings

94. In accordance with paragraph (b) of Council decision 1993/242 of 27 July 1993, the Commission meets annually for a period of eight days.

8. Commission on Science and Technology for Development

Terms of reference

95. In its decision 1992/218 of 30 April 1992, the Council established the Commission on Science and Technology for Development as a functional commission and as the successor to the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development and its subsidiary body, the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development. The Intergovernmental Committee had been established in General Assembly resolution 34/218 of 19 December 1979, by which the Assembly endorsed the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development. 4/ Council decision 1992/218 was adopted pursuant to Assembly resolution 46/235 of 13 April 1992 on restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields.

Further, in its resolution 1992/62 of 31 July 1992, the Council reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission.

96. The consolidated mandate of the Commission is derived from General Assembly resolutions 34/218, 41/183 of 8 December 1986, 44/14 A to E of 26 October 1989, and 46/235, as well as from the annex to resolution 7 (II) of 4 June 1980 of the Intergovernmental Committee, and specifies the following functions:

(a) Promoting and catalysing international cooperation in the field of science and technology for development, in particular in developing countries, and in helping solve global scientific and technological problems;

(b) Formulating policy guidelines for the harmonization of policies of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in regard to scientific and technological activities, on the basis of the Vienna Programme of Action;

(c) Promoting the improvement of linkages between the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system, with a view to ensuring the coordinated implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action;

(d) Identifying priorities for activities within the Vienna Programme of Action with a view to facilitating operational planning at the national, subregional, regional, interregional and international levels;

(e) Monitoring the activities and programmes related to science and technology within the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system;

(f) Promoting the optimum mobilization of resources in order to enable the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to carry out the activities of the Vienna Programme of Action;

(g) Providing directives and policy-making guidance to the United Nations Financing System for Science and Technology for Development;

(h) The early identification and assessment of new scientific and technological developments that may adversely affect the development process as well as those that may have specific and potential importance for that process and for strengthening the scientific and technological capacities of the developing countries;

(i) Choosing subjects of particular significance with major science and technology dimensions with a view to providing an assessment of technology and related policy analysis in order to facilitate the debate of the question in the Assembly;

(j) Providing, at the request of the Council, such scientific and technical expert advice as may be necessary for the discharge of the mandate of the Council;

(k) Providing also, through the Council, expert advice to other intergovernmental bodies of the United Nations system.

Membership and composition

97. In accordance with paragraph 7 (a) (ii) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 46/235 and Council decision 1992/222 of 29 May 1992, the Commission on Science and Technology for Development consists of one representative from each of 53 Member States elected by the Council on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, according to the following pattern:

(a) Thirteen members from African States;

(b) Eleven members from Asian States;

(c) Ten members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Six members from Eastern European States;

(e) Thirteen members from Western European and other States.

Term of office

98. The term of office is four years (Assembly resolution 46/235, annex, para. 7 (a) (ii)).

Reporting procedure

99. As a functional commission, the Commission reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Timing of meetings

100. The Commission meets biennially for a period of two weeks (General Assembly resolution 46/235, annex, para. 7 (a) (v)).

9. Commission on Sustainable Development

Terms of reference

101. The Commission on Sustainable Development was established as a functional commission of the Council in Council decision 1993/207 of 12 February 1993, pursuant to a request of the General Assembly in paragraph 2 of its resolution 47/191 of 22 December 1992. According to paragraph 2 of that resolution, the purpose of the Commission is to ensure effective follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, as well as to enhance international cooperation and rationalize the intergovernmental decision-making capacity for the integration of environment and development issues and to examine the progress of the implementation of Agenda 21 5/ at the national, regional and

international levels in order to achieve sustainable development in all countries.

102. The terms of reference of the Commission are contained in paragraphs 3 to 5 of that resolution and include the following functions:

(a) To monitor progress in the implementation of Agenda 21 and activities related to the integration of environmental and developmental goals throughout the United Nations system;

(b) To consider information provided by Governments regarding the activities they undertake to implement Agenda 21, the problems they face and other environment and development issues they find relevant;

(c) To review the progress in the implementation of the commitments set forth in Agenda 21, including those related to the provision of financial resources and transfer of technology;

(d) To review and monitor regularly progress towards the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent of the gross national product of developed countries for official development assistance;

(e) To review on a regular basis the adequacy of funding and mechanisms, including efforts to reach the objectives agreed in chapter 33 of Agenda 21, including targets where applicable;

(f) To receive and analyse relevant input from competent non-governmental organizations, including the scientific and the private sector, in the context of the overall implementation of Agenda 21;

(g) To monitor progress in promoting, facilitating and financing, as appropriate, access to and transfer of environmentally sound technologies and corresponding know-how, in particular to developing countries, on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed, taking into account the need to protect intellectual property rights as well as the special needs of developing countries for the implementation of Agenda 21.

Membership and composition

103. In accordance with Council decision 1993/207, the Commission on Sustainable Development consists of one representative from each of 53 members elected by the Council from among the States Members of the United Nations and members of the specialized agencies on the basis of an equitable geographical distribution, according to the following pattern:

(a) Thirteen members from African States;

(b) Eleven members from Asian States;

(c) Six members from Eastern European States;

(d) Ten members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Thirteen members from Western European and other States.

Term of office

104. The term of office is three years (Council decision 1993/207, para. (b)).

Reporting procedure

105. The Commission reports directly to the Council; its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council. The Commission is also to provide appropriate recommendations to the General Assembly, through the Council, on the basis of an integrated consideration of the reports and issues related to the implementation of Agenda 21 (Assembly resolution 47/191, para. 3 (i)).

Frequency of meetings

106. The Commission meets annually for a period of two to three weeks (General Assembly resolution 47/191, para. 9).

Subsidiary bodies of the Commission on Sustainable Development

(a) Ad hoc open-ended working groups

107. The Commission establishes ad hoc open-ended working groups to address specific issues within its work programme.

(b) Open-ended ad hoc intergovernmental panel on forests

108. In its decision 1995/226 of 1 June 1995, the Council decided, upon the recommendation of the Commission at its third session, 6/ to approve the establishment of an open-ended ad hoc intergovernmental panel on forests. The terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Panel on Forests are given in the report of the Commission on its third session. 7/ The purpose of the Panel is to assess actions already taken and propose options for further action to combat deforestation and forest degradation and to promote management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests, including environmental and socio-economic impacts.

109. The Panel is to meet for two sessions of two weeks each in 1996 (Council decision 1995/318 of 25 October 1995) and for one session in 1997.

B. Regional commissions

1. Economic Commission for Africa

Terms of reference

110. The Economic Commission for Africa was established by the Council in its resolution 671 A (XXV) of 29 April 1958, which set forth the following terms of reference:

"The Economic Commission for Africa, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Economic and Social Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action with respect to any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:

"(a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic development of Africa, including its social aspects, with a view to raising the level of economic activity and levels of living in Africa, and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of countries and territories of Africa, both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

"(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within the territories of Africa as the Commission deems appropriate, and disseminate the results of such investigation and studies;

"(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

"(d) Perform, within the available resources of its secretariat, such advisory services as the countries and territories of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by other bodies of the United Nations or by the specialized agencies;

"(e) Assist the Council at its request in discharging its functions within the region in connection with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;

"(f) Assist in the formulation and development of coordinated policies as a basis for practical action in promoting economic and technological development in the region;

"(g) In carrying out the above functions, deal as appropriate with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of economic and social factors."

Membership and composition

111. In accordance with Council resolution 974 D (XXXVI), section III, which amended the terms of reference of the Commission in regard to its membership, membership of the Commission is open to Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, 8/ the Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, the United Republic of

Tanzania, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe and to any State in the area that may become a Member of the United Nations.

112. Switzerland participates in a consultative capacity in the work of the Commission by virtue of Council resolution 925 (XXXIV) of 6 July 1962.

113. The Commission has at present 53 members, as listed above.

Subsidiary bodies

114. The Council, in paragraph 3 of resolution 671 A (XXV), decided that the Commission might, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deemed appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

115. The Commission has at present the following subsidiary bodies:

1. ECA exclusive legislative organs

(a) Conference of Ministers;

(b) Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole;

(c) Intergovernmental Committees of Experts of the Multinational Programming and Operational Centres (MULPOCs) - five: one for North Africa, headquarters Tangiers, Morocco, one for West Africa, headquarters Niamey, Niger, one for Central Africa, headquarters Yaoundé, Cameroon, one for Central Africa, headquarters Gisenyi, Rwanda, and one for Eastern and Southern Africa, headquarters Lusaka, Zambia;

2. Conferences of Ministers

(a) Conference of African Ministers of Finance;

(b) Committee of Experts of the Conference of African Ministers of Finance;

(c) Conference of African Ministers of Transport and Communications;

(d) Group of Experts of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport and Communications;

(e) Conference of African Ministers responsible for Human Development;

(f) Committee of Experts of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Human Development;

(g) Follow-up Committee of Fifteen of the Conference of Ministers responsible for Human Development;

(h) Conference of African Ministers responsible for the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources and Energy;

(i) Committee of Experts of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for the Development and Utilization of Mineral Resources and Energy;

(j) Conference of African Ministers of Trade and Regional Cooperation and Integration;

(k) Committee of Experts of the Conference of African Ministers of Trade and Regional Cooperation and Integration;

(l) Conference of African Ministers of Industry;

(m) Committee of Experts of the Conference of African Ministers of Industry;

(n) Conference of African Ministers responsible for Sustainable Development and the Environment;

(o) Committee of Experts of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Sustainable Development and the Environment;

(p) Ministerial Follow-up Committee of Fifteen of the Conference of African Ministers responsible for Sustainable Development and the Environment;

3. Technical subsidiary bodies

(a) Joint Conference of African Planners, Statisticians, Demographers and Information Scientists;

(b) United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Africa;

(c) African Regional Conference for Science and Technology;

(d) Africa Regional Coordinating Committee for the Integration of Women in Development.

Reporting procedure

116. The Commission reports directly to the Council (Council resolution 671 A (XXV), para. 18), and its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

117. The Technical Preparatory Committee of the Whole meets annually prior to the session of the Commission itself. The meeting of the Conference of Ministers of ECA and the Commission session are held annually and concurrently.

2. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Terms of reference

118. The Commission was provisionally established by the Council in its resolution 37 (IV) of 28 March 1947 as the Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East. The Council, in resolution 414 (XIII), section C.I, of 18, 19 and 20 September 1951, decided to continue the Commission indefinitely. The Council, in resolution 1895 (LVII) of 1 August 1974, decided to change the name to "Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific".

119. The terms of reference of the Commission as set out in Council resolution 37 (IV), which have been amended by the Council at subsequent sessions, most recently in Council decision 1994/288 of 26 July 1994 and Council resolutions 1995/22 of 24 July 1995 and 1996/3 A to C of 18 July 1996, and revised in consequence of various General Assembly resolutions on the admission of new members, are as follows:

> The Commission, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council shall, provided the Commission takes no action in respect of any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:
>
> (a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Asia and the Pacific, for raising the level of economic activity in Asia and the Pacific and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of these areas both among themselves and with other countries of the world;
>
> (b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within territories of Asia and the Pacific as the Commission deems appropriate;
>
> (c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;
>
> (d) Perform such advisory services, within the available resources of its secretariat, as the countries of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by the specialized agencies or the United Nations Technical Assistance Administration;
>
> (e) Assist the Council, at its request, in discharging its functions within the region in connection with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;
>
> (f) In carrying out the above functions, deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

Membership and composition

120. The Commission has at present 51 members, of which 4 are not within its geographical scope, and 9 associate members. The members are Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Fiji, France, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Kazakstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Maldives, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Samoa, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Viet Nam. Any State in the area that may hereafter become a Member of the United Nations shall be thereupon admitted as a member of the Commission. The associate members are American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Hong Kong, 9/ Macau, New Caledonia and Niue. Switzerland participates in a consultative capacity in the work of the Commission by virtue of Council resolution 860 (XXXII) of 21 December 1961.

Subsidiary bodies

121. The Council, in resolution 69 (V) of 31 July 1947, decided that the Commission might, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deemed appropriate for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

122. The Commission, in its resolution 48/2 of 23 April 1992 on restructuring its conference structure, established the following thematic committees and special bodies:

(a) Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, which meets on a regular basis;

(b) Committee for Regional Economic Cooperation, which meets annually, and its Steering Group, which meets as required;

(c) Committee on the Environment and Sustainable Development, which meets annually;

(d) Committee on Poverty Alleviation through Economic Growth and Social Development, which meets annually;

(e) Committee on Statistics, which meets biennially in even-numbered years;

(f) Committee on Transport and Communications, which meets biennially in odd-numbered years;

(g) Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries, which meets biennially in odd-numbered years;

(h) Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries, which meets biennially in even-numbered years.

Reporting procedure

123. The Commission reports directly to the Council, and its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

124. In accordance with Council resolution 1768 (LIV), the Commission meets annually.

3. Economic Commission for Europe

Terms of reference

125. The Economic Commission for Europe was established and given the following terms of reference by the Council in its resolution 36 (IV) of 28 March 1947, as amended by Council resolution 414 (XIII), sect. C.I, and subsequent resolutions:

> The Commission, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council shall, provided that the Commission takes no action in respect to any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:
>
> (a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction of Europe, for raising the level of European economic activity, and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of the European countries both among themselves and with other countries of the world;
>
> (b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems of and developments within member countries of the Commission and within Europe generally as the Commission deems appropriate;
>
> (c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate.

Membership and composition

126. The Commission has at present the following 55 members: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of

Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uzbekistan and Yugoslavia. 10/ The Holy See participates in the work of the Commission in accordance with Commission decision N (XXXI) of 5 April 1976.

Subsidiary bodies

127. The Council, in paragraph 5 of section A of its resolution 36 (IV), decided that the Commission might, after discussion with any specialized agency functioning in the same general field and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deemed appropriate for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

128. At its forty-second, forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions (1987, 1989 and 1990), the Commission carried out in-depth reviews of its structures and functions (decisions A (1987-S), A (45) and O (45)). The reviews led to the definition of environment, transport, statistics, trade facilitation and economic analysis as priority areas of activity, a reduction of the Commission's subsidiary bodies, and a more flexible approach to the Commission's activities, including the greater use of informal meetings. The basic structure consists of 10 Principal Subsidiary Bodies listed below. It also includes four Working Parties in the Industry sector which, in the absence of a Principal Subsidiary Body, report directly to the Commission. The others include working parties that report to the Principal Subsidiary Bodies.

Principal Subsidiary Bodies

(a) Senior Economic Advisers to ECE Governments;

(b) Committee on Agricultural Problems;

(c) Timber Committee;

(d) Committee on Environmental Policy;

(e) Committee on Human Settlements;

(f) Committee on the Development of Trade;

(g) Committee on Energy;

(h) Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Science and Technology;

(i) Inland Transport Committee;

(j) Conference of European Statisticians.

Industry

(a) Working Party on the Chemical Industry;

(b) Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation;

(c) Working Party on Standardization Policies;

(d) Working Party on Steel.

Reporting procedure

129. The Commission reports directly to the Council (Council resolution 36 (IV), para. 6), and its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

130. In accordance with Council resolution 1768 (LIV), the Commission meets annually.

4. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

Terms of reference

131. The Economic Commission for Latin America was established by the Council in its resolution 106 (VI) of 25 February and 5 March 1948. In its resolution 1984/67 of 27 July 1984, the Council decided to change the name of the Commission to the present one. The following terms of reference were set out in Council resolutions 106 (VI), 234 (IX) of 12 August 1949, 414 (XIII), section C.I, of 18, 19 and 20 September 1951, and 723 C (XXVIII) of 17 July 1959, and the Council's decision of 31 July 1969 adopted at its forty-seventh session:

> The Commission, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action with respect to any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:
>
> (a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for dealing with urgent economic problems and for raising the level of economic activity in Latin America and the Caribbean and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of the Latin American and Caribbean countries both among themselves and with other countries of the world;
>
> (b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within territories of Latin America and the Caribbean as the Commission deems appropriate;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

(d) Give special attention in its activities to the problems of economic development and assist in the formulation and development of coordinated policies as a basis for practical action in promoting economic development in the region;

(e) Assist the Council in discharging its functions with respect to the United Nations technical assistance programme, in particular by assisting in the appraisal of these activities in the Latin American and Caribbean region;

(f) In carrying out the above functions, deal as appropriate with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

The Commission shall direct its activities especially towards the study and seeking of solutions of problems arising in Latin America and the Caribbean from world economic maladjustment and towards other problems connected with the world economy, with a view to the cooperation of the Latin American and Caribbean countries in the common effort to achieve worldwide recovery and economic stability.

Membership and composition

132. The Commission has at present 41 members and 6 associate members. The members are Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, France, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Mexico, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Spain, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay and Venezuela.

133. The associate members are Aruba, the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat, the Netherlands Antilles, Puerto Rico and the United States Virgin Islands. Germany and Switzerland participate in a consultative capacity in the work of the Commission by virtue of Council resolutions 632 (XXII) of 13 December 1956 and 861 (XXXII) of 21 December 1961, respectively.

Subsidiary bodies

134. The Council, in paragraph 10 of its resolution 106 (VI), decided that the Commission might, after discussion with any specialized agency concerned, and with the approval of the Council, establish such subsidiary bodies as it deemed appropriate, for facilitating the carrying out of its responsibilities.

135. At present, the Commission has the following subsidiary bodies:

(a) Central American Development and Cooperation Committee, with subcommittees on trade; statistical coordination; transport; housing, building and planning; electric power and industrial initiatives; and agricultural development;

(b) Regional Council for Planning of the Latin American Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES);

(c) Committee of High-level Government Experts;

(d) Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee;

(e) Regional Conference on the Integration of Women into the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Reporting procedure

136. The Commission reports directly to the Council (Council resolution 106 (VI), para. 12), and its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council in even years.

Frequency of meetings

137. The Commission itself meets biennially, in even years, and in odd years the Committee of the Whole holds its session.

5. Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Terms of reference

138. The Commission was established by the Council in its resolution 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973 as the Economic Commission for Western Asia. In its resolution 1985/69 of 26 July 1985, the Council changed the name of the Commission to the current one. Its terms of reference, in Council resolution 1818 (LV), as subsequently amended, are as follows:

> The Commission, acting within the framework of the policies of the United Nations and subject to the general supervision of the Council, shall, provided that the Commission takes no action with respect to any country without the agreement of the Government of that country:
>
> (a) Initiate and participate in measures for facilitating concerted action for the economic reconstruction and development of Western Asia, for raising the level of economic activity in Western Asia and for maintaining and strengthening the economic relations of the countries of that area both among themselves and with other countries of the world;

(b) Make or sponsor such investigations and studies of economic and technological problems and developments within the territories of Western Asia as the Commission deems appropriate;

(c) Undertake or sponsor the collection, evaluation and dissemination of such economic, technological and statistical information as the Commission deems appropriate;

(d) Perform such advisory services, within the available resources of its secretariat, as the countries of the region may desire, provided that such services do not overlap with those rendered by the specialized agencies or the United Nations Development Programme;

(e) Assist the Council, at its request, in discharging its functions within the region in connection with any economic problems, including problems in the field of technical assistance;

(f) In carrying out the above functions, deal, as appropriate, with the social aspects of economic development and the interrelationship of the economic and social factors.

Membership and composition

139. The present members are Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Subsidiary bodies

140. The Commission has the following subsidiary bodies:

(a) Technical Committee of the Commission, which meets biennially in odd-numbered years shortly before the biennial session of tne Commission (see Council resolutions 1993/1 of 2 February 1993 and 1994/26 of 26 July 1994);

(b) Statistical Committee, which meets biennially (see Council resolution 1993/2 of 2 February 1993);

(c) Committee on Social Development, which meets biennially in odd-numbered years (see Council resolution 1994/27 of 26 July 1994);

(d) Committee on Energy, which meets biennially in even-numbered years (see Council resolution 1995/25 of 24 July 1995);

(e) Committee on Water Resources, which meets biennially in even-numbered years (see Council resolution 1995/26 of 24 July 1995).

Reporting procedure

141. The Commission reports directly to the Council (Council resolution 1818 (LV), para. 12). Its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

142. In accordance with Council resolution 1994/26 of 26 July 1994, the Commission meets biennially in odd-numbered years.

C. Standing committees 11/

1. Committee for Programme and Coordination

Terms of reference

143. The Committee for Programme and Coordination was first established under the name "Special Committee on Coordination" by the Council in its resolution 920 (XXXIV) of 3 August 1962. It was renamed "Committee for Programme and Coordination" by the Council in its resolution 1171 (XLI) of 5 August 1966, "to reflect better its dual responsibilities". The Committee's original terms of reference were outlined in those resolutions. In its resolution 31/93 of 14 December 1976, the General Assembly decided "that the Committee for Programme and Coordination shall function as the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and coordination" and approved the consolidated terms of reference as set out in the annex to Council resolution 2008 (LX) of 14 May 1976. The terms of reference are as follows:

"A. Functions

"1. The Committee shall function as the main subsidiary organ of the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly for planning, programming and coordination.

"2. In particular, the Committee shall:

"(a) Review the programmes of the United Nations as defined in the medium-term plan. In performing this function, the Committee shall:

"(i) Review the medium-term plan in the off-budget years and the programme budget in budget years;

"In reviewing the medium-term plan, the Committee shall examine, in the light of its budgetary implications, the totality of the Secretary-General's work programme, giving particular attention to programme changes arising out of decisions adopted by intergovernmental organs and conferences or suggested by the Secretary-General;

"The Committee shall concern itself with medium-term plans formulated for the organizational units involved in each programme of the United Nations and assess the results achieved from current activities, the continuing validity of legislative decisions of more than five years'

standing, and the effectiveness of coordination with other units of the Secretariat and members of the United Nations family;

"(ii) Recommend an order of priorities among United Nations programmes as defined in the medium-term plan;

"(iii) Give guidance to the Secretariat on programme design by interpreting legislative intent so as to assist it in translating legislation into programmes. In this connection, the memoranda on the implementation of resolutions, prepared by the Secretariat after each session of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, shall be made available to the Committee, which, in the periods immediately following the sessions of those bodies, shall cooperate with the Secretariat departments concerned in integrating the new legislation into continuing programmes;

"(iv) Consider and develop evaluation procedures and their use in the improvement of programme design;

"(v) Make recommendations with respect to work programmes proposed by the Secretariat to give effect to the legislative intent of the relevant policy-making organs, taking into account the need to avoid overlapping and duplication;

"(b) Assist the Economic and Social Council in the performance of its coordination functions within the United Nations system.

"3. In discharging those responsibilities, the Committee shall:

"(a) Consider on a sector-by-sector basis the activities and programmes of the agencies of the United Nations system in order to enable the Council effectively to perform its functions as coordinator of the system and ensure that the work programmes of the United Nations and its agencies shall be compatible and mutually complementary;

"(b) Recommend guidelines for the agencies of the United Nations system on their programmes and activities, taking into account their respective functions and responsibilities and the need for coherence and coordination throughout the system;

"(c) Undertake from time to time, upon the recommendation of the General Assembly or the Economic and Social Council, a review and appraisal of the implementation of important legislative decisions, so as to determine the degree of coordinated effort undertaken throughout the United Nations system in certain priority fields designated as such by legislative bodies. The Committee shall perform this work, both independently and in consultation with the Administrative Committee on Coordination, and shall be required to report on the results of its review to the legislative body that requested that it be undertaken;

"(d) The Committee shall study the reports of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, appropriate reports of United Nations organs, the annual reports of the specialized agencies and the International Atomic Energy Agency and other relevant documents.

"B. Relationships with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Joint Inspection Unit

"4. The Committee shall establish useful cooperation with the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

"5. The members of the Joint Inspection Unit shall be free to participate in meetings of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and arrangements shall be made for periodic joint consultations. The Joint Inspection Unit shall also bring to the attention of the Committee any problem which it may consider important within the scope of the Committee's responsibilities.

"6. The reports of the Joint Inspection Unit concerning the economic, social and human rights programmes of the United Nations system, including the reports dealing with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, shall be examined by the Committee for Programme and Coordination, which shall report thereon to the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly. In its review, the Committee shall take account of any comments which the Secretary-General and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions may wish to make on these reports."

144. Pursuant to the report of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, 12/ the General Assembly, in section II of its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, called for improvement of the representation in the Committee in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 46 of the annex to Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977. Annex I to resolution 41/213, which is entitled "Budget process", provides that, in off-budget years, "the Committee for Programme and Coordination, acting as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly, shall consider the outline and submit, through the Fifth Committee, to the General Assembly its conclusions and recommendations" and that, in budget years, "the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions shall examine the proposed programme budget in accordance with their respective mandates and submit their conclusions and recommendations to the General Assembly, through the Fifth Committee, for the final approval of the programme budget".

Membership and composition

145. In accordance with General Assembly decision 42/450 of 17 December 1987, the Committee consists of 34 Member States nominated by the Council and elected by the Assembly on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, as follows:

(a) Nine seats for African States;

(b) Seven seats for Asian States;

(c) Seven seats for Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Seven seats for Western European and other States;

(e) Four seats for Eastern European States.

Term of office

146. The term of office of members is three years (Council resolution 2008 (LX), annex, para. 7).

Reporting procedure

147. The Committee reports to the Assembly and the Council, as it is a subsidiary body of both. Its reports are presented as supplements to the Official Records of the General Assembly.

Frequency of meetings

148. The annex to Council resolution 2008 (LX) stipulates that "the Committee shall meet for six weeks in (medium-term) plan years (even-numbered years) and for four weeks in budget years" (odd-numbered years). In off-budget years, the session is split into two parts.

2. Commission on Human Settlements

Terms of reference

149. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, the Council, in its resolution 1978/1 of 12 January 1978, decided to transform the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning (which had been established by the Council in its resolution 903 C (XXXIV) of 2 August 1962) into a Commission on Human Settlements.

150. In section II, paragraph 3, of its resolution 32/162, the General Assembly provides that the Commission will have the following main objectives:

"(a) To assist countries and regions in increasing and improving their own efforts to solve human settlements problems;

"(b) To promote greater international cooperation in order to increase the availability of resources of developing countries and regions;

"(c) To promote the integral concept of human settlements and a comprehensive approach to human settlements problems in all countries;

"(d) To strengthen cooperation and co-participation in this domain among all countries and regions."

151. The General Assembly, in its resolution 32/162, section II, paragraph 4, also decided that the Commission would have the following main functions and responsibilities:

"(a) To develop and promote policy objectives, priorities and guidelines regarding existing and planned programmes of work in the field of human settlements, as formulated in the recommendations of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly;

"(b) To follow closely the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations in the field of human settlements and to propose, when appropriate, ways and means by which the overall policy objectives and goals in the field of human settlements within the United Nations system might best be achieved;

"(c) To study, in the context of the recommendations for national action of Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements, new issues, problems and especially solutions in the field of human settlements, particularly those of a regional or international character;

"(d) To give overall policy guidance and carry out supervision of the operations of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (now an integral part of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat));

"(e) To review and approve periodically the utilization of funds at its disposal for carrying out human settlements activities at the global, regional and subregional levels;

"(f) To provide overall direction to the secretariat of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat);

"(g) To review and provide guidance on the programme of the United Nations Audio-Visual Information Centre on Human Settlements established by virtue of General Assembly resolution 31/115 of 16 December 1976 (also an integral part of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat))."

Membership, composition and term of office

152. The Committee has 58 members elected by the Council for a four-year term on the following basis (General Assembly resolutions 32/162, sect. II, para. 1 and 40/202 B, para. 3):

(a) Sixteen from African States;

(b) Thirteen from Asian States;

(c) Six from Eastern European States;

(d) Ten from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Thirteen from Western European and other States.

Reporting procedure

153. The Commission reports to the General Assembly through the Council (Assembly resolution 32/162, sect. II, para. 6). Its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the General Assembly. The Commission submits its report on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 as an addendum to its report.

Frequency of meeting

154. The Commission meets biennially (Commission resolution 8/1 and General Assembly resolution 40/202 B).

3. Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

Terms of reference

155. The Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations was established by the Council in its resolution 3 (II) of 21 June 1946. Its original terms of reference were set out in Council resolution 288 B (X) of 27 February 1950, which was superseded by Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 25 May 1968. The current terms of reference of the Committee are set out in Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

156. The Committee carries out the functions assigned to it by the Council in connection with the arrangements for consultations with non-governmental organizations adopted by the Council in accordance with Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations. When considering applications for granting consultative status to non-governmental organizations, the Committee is guided by the rules of procedure of the Council.

157. The Committee consults, in connection with sessions of the Council or at such other times as it may decide, with organizations in categories I and II on matters within their competence, other than items in the agenda of the Council, on which the Council or the Committee or the organization requests consultation.

158. The Committee consults, in connection with any particular session of the Council, with organizations in categories I and II on matters within the competence of the organizations concerning specific items already in the provisional agenda of the Council on which the Council or the Committee or the organization requests consultation, and makes recommendations as to which organizations, subject to the provisions of paragraph 1 of rule 84 of the rules of procedure of the Council, should be heard by the Council or the appropriate committee and regarding which subjects they should be heard. The Committee reports to the Council on such consultations.

159. The Committee also makes recommendations to the Council as to which organizations in category I should be heard by the Council or by its sessional committees and on which items they should be heard. In the absence of the subsidiary body of the Council with jurisdiction in a major field of interest to the Council and to an organization in category II, the Committee may recommend that an organization in category II be heard by the Council on the subject of its field of interest.

Membership and composition

160. The Committee has 19 members (Council resolution 1981/50 of 20 July 1981) who are elected on the basis of equitable geographical representation. The membership of the Committee consists of:

(a) Five members from African States;

(b) Four members from Asian States;

(c) Two members from Eastern European States;

(d) Four members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Four members from Western European and other States.

Term of office

161. In accordance with Council decision 70 (ORG-75) of 28 January 1975, the term of office of members is four years.

Reporting procedure

162. The Committee reports directly to the Council (rule 82 of the rules of procedure of the Council).

Frequency of meetings

163. The Committee meets annually (Council decision 1995/304 of 26 July 1995). It has a one-day meeting before each session of the Council to determine those non-governmental organizations that shall speak before the Council and the agenda items on which they will speak.

4. Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies

Terms of reference

164. The Committee on Negotiations with Intergovernmental Agencies was established by the Council in its resolution 11 (I) of 16 February 1946 in order to carry out negotiations with intergovernmental agencies with a view to bringing them into relationship with the United Nations in accordance with Articles 57 and 63 of the Charter.

Membership and composition

165. The Council decides on the membership and composition of the Committee as and when it decides that this Committee should enter into negotiations with one or more intergovernmental agencies.

D. Expert bodies composed of governmental experts

1. Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

Terms of reference

166. The Council, in its resolution 468 G (XV) of 15 April 1953, requested the Secretary-General to appoint a committee (subsequently the United Nations Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods) of not more than nine experts that was to make a study and present a report to the Transport and Communications Commission:

(a) Recommending and defining groupings or classification of dangerous goods on the basis of the character of risk involved;

(b) Listing the principal dangerous goods moving in commerce and assigning each to its proper grouping or classification;

(c) Recommending marks or labels for each grouping or classification, which shall identify the risk graphically and without regard to printed text;

(d) Recommending the simplest possible requirements for shipping papers covering dangerous goods.

167. That mandate was enlarged by the Council in its resolution 645 G (XXIII) of 26 April 1957, when the Committee was given the name Committee of Experts for Further Work on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and the problem of packing was added to its mandate.

168. In Council resolution 724 C (XXVIII) of 17 July 1959, the Committee was invited to continue the tasks previously assigned to it and to explore further "mutually acceptable performance tests for outer packages". The Council also requested the Secretary-General to set up and convene a group of three experts on explosives to list and harmonize the packing of explosives, and to inform the International Atomic Energy Agency of the desire of the Council that the Agency be entrusted with "the drafting of recommendations on the transport of radioactive substances". In resolution 994 (XXXVI) of 16 December 1963, the Council decided to change the name of the Committee to the "Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods". At this period, the Secretary-General decided to transfer the responsibility for the secretariat of the Committee to the Economic Commission for Europe at Geneva.

169. The Council, in its resolution 1488 (XLVIII) of 22 May 1970, decided "that the Group of Experts on Explosives shall continue to function as a subsidiary body of the Committee of Experts and that the Committee may alter, as required,

the composition of its subsidiary bodies", and that the Committee of Experts "shall study the questions concerning the construction, testing and use of tanks other than those permanently fixed to, or forming part of, the structure of sea-going vessels or inland waterway craft". In paragraph 5 of the same resolution, the Council also suggested that the Committee of Experts consider:

"(a) In view of the appearance of new dangerous goods, enlarging the list of dangerous goods by including there new dangerous goods;

"(b) Grouping dangerous goods within classes by the type and degree of the danger of their transportation, with due regard to the specific conditions of their transportation such as their compatibility;

"(c) Giving each of the dangerous goods a numerical designation, which, in addition to the 'dangerous goods' label would indicate the group of compatibility, which could be instrumental in the solution of the problems of the joint transportation of dangerous goods;

"(d) Supplementing the enlarged list of dangerous goods with indications of the properties and the category of danger of such goods, the fire-fighting means, other safety measures regarding such goods and their packing."

170. A call for harmonization and uniformity was first expressed in Council resolution 1743 (LIV) of 4 May 1973, in which the Council, mindful of the increase of unitization and containerization of cargoes as part of total world transportation, invited "international organizations concerned to foster the adoption of a single system of identification, classification and labelling of dangerous goods" and requested the Committee to continue to investigate divergencies currently existing in the modal practices in that respect. This was reflected in Council resolution 1973 (LIX) of 30 July 1975, in which the Council, noting that dangerous goods accounted for an increasingly large proportion of international trade and that their transport in complete safety should not hamper the development of trade or of the participation of developing countries, "requested the Committee to study, in consultation with other bodies concerned, particularly the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, the International Civil Aviation Organization, the International Air Transport Association and the regional commissions, the possibility of an international convention on the transport of dangerous goods by all modes of transport". This request was repeated in Council resolution 2050 (LXII) of 5 May 1977 with the additional recommendation that the special problems of developing countries should be taken into account.

Composition and membership

171. Under Council resolution 645 G (XXIII), the Committee was to consist of "not more than nine qualified experts from countries interested in the international transport of dangerous goods". Governments were invited to make available, at the request of the Secretary-General and at their own expense, the members of the Committee of Experts. The Council, in its resolution 1973 (LIX) of 30 July 1975, decided to enlarge the composition of the Committee of Experts

by adding five members from developing countries, so as to ensure the adequate participation of such countries. Nineteen experts are currently participating.

Subsidiary body of the Committee of Experts

Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods

172. The Group of Rapporteurs, which prior to 1975 was called the Group of Rapporteurs on the packing of dangerous goods, had been instituted by the Committee at its third session in 1963 and the creation of this subsidiary body was tacitly approved by the Council by its resolution 994 (XXXVI). The Group of Experts on Explosives was set up in answer to a request formulated in Council resolution 724 C (XXVIII).

173. In its resolution 1989/104 of 27 July 1989, the Council endorsed the decision of the Committee to combine its two subsidiary bodies, the Group of Rapporteurs and the Group of Experts on Explosives, into a single Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods. In particular resolutions on the work of the Committee of Experts the Council has made specific recommendations on its tasks.

Reporting procedure

174. The Committee of Experts originally reported to the Transport and Communications Commission. At present, the Secretary-General submits to the Council, on a biennial basis, a report on the work of the Committee of Experts.

Frequency of meetings

175. The Subcommittee meets twice a year in odd years and once during the first half of the even year. The Committee of Experts meets during the second half of the even year.

2. Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting 13/

Terms of reference

176. The Council, in its resolution 1979/44 of 11 May 1979, established the Ad Hoc Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting. In its resolution 1982/67 of 27 October 1982, the Council decided to establish an Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting, which "should serve as an international body for the consideration of issues of accounting and reporting falling within the scope of the work of the Commission on Transnational Corporations, in order to improve the availability and comparability of information disclosed by transnational corporations; should review developments in this field, including the work of standard-setting bodies; and should concentrate on establishing priorities, taking into account the needs of home and host countries, particularly those of developing countries".

177. In addition, the Council decided that "the Group should meet for a period of two weeks not more than once a year and should report to the Commission on Transnational Corporations on further steps to be taken in pursuit of the long-term objective of the international harmonization of accounting and reporting within the scope of the work of the Commission, particularly with regard to the comprehensive information system and the code of conduct on transnational corporations currently being formulated, on the understanding that duplication of work should be avoided". In its resolution 1991/56 of 26 July 1991, the Council decided that the Commission, at its annual session, should keep under review the work of the Group; in particular, it should review the mandate, terms of reference and achievements of the Group after five years, with a view to deciding on the advisability of its continuation.

Membership and composition

178. In accordance with paragraph 4 (b) of Council resolution 1982/67, "taking into account the different existing systems of accounting and reporting and without prejudice to the principle of equitable geographical distribution", the Group is composed of 34 members elected by the Council on the following basis:

(a) Nine members from African States;

(b) Seven members from Asian States;

(c) Three members from Eastern European States;

(d) Six members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Nine members from Western European and other States.

Pursuant to paragraph 4 (c) of that resolution, each State so elected shall appoint an expert with appropriate experience in the field of accounting and reporting.

Term of office

179. The term of office of members is three years (Council resolution 1982/67, para. 4 (d)).

Reporting procedure

180. The Group reports to the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues (see para. 271).

3. United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

Terms of reference

181. The Council, in its resolution 715 A (XXVII) of 23 April 1959, requested the Secretary-General to set up a small group of consultants to consider the technical problems of domestic standardization of geographical names, including

the preparation of a statement of the general and regional problems involved, to prepare draft recommendations for the procedures, principally linguistic, that might be followed in the standardization of their own names by individual countries and to report to the Council on the desirability of holding an international conference on this subject and of the sponsoring of working groups based on common linguistic systems.

182. The First United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names was held at Geneva from 4 to 22 September 1967. On the basis of the recommendations of the Conference, the Council, in its resolution 1314 (XLVI) of 31 May 1968, approved the terms of reference for the Ad Hoc Group of Experts, which was renamed the "United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names" by a Council decision of 4 May 1973.

183. In its decision 1988/116 of 25 May 1988, the Council also approved the statute and rules of procedure of the Group of Experts (E/1988/22, annex II) In its decision 1993/226 of 12 July 1993, the Council approved a new version of the statute (see E/1993/21 and Corr.1, annex).

184. The basic aims of the Group of Experts are:

(a) To emphasize the importance of the standardization of geographical names at the national and international levels and to demonstrate the benefits to be derived from such standardization;

(b) To collect the results of the work of national and international bodies dealing with the standardization of geographical names and to facilitate the dissemination of these results to States Members of the United Nations;

(c) To study and propose principles, policies and methods suitable for resolving problems of national and international standardization;

(d) To play an active role, by facilitating the supply of scientific and technical help, in particular to developing countries, in creating mechanisms for the national and international standardization of geographical names;

(e) To provide a vehicle for liaison and coordination among Member States, and between Member States and international organizations, on work associated with the standardization of geographical names;

(f) To implement the tasks assigned as a result of the resolutions adopted at the United Nations Conferences on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

185. To further the aims stated above, the functions of the Group of Experts are:

(a) To develop procedures and establish mechanisms for standardization in response to national requirements and particular requests;

(b) To undertake preparatory work for the periodic international conferences on the standardization of geographical names, to provide continuity

for activities between conferences, and to provide leadership in the implementation of resolutions adopted at the conferences;

(c) To encourage the discussion and study of practical and theoretical steps directed towards standardization;

(d) To coordinate the activities of linguistic/geographical divisions formed to further the work at the national level, to encourage the active participation of countries and divisions, and to promote a degree of uniformity in the work undertaken;

(e) To create any necessary structure to supplement the work of divisions and to deal with issues beyond the scope of a division;

(f) To develop appropriate programmes to assist individual countries and group of countries, to achieve standardization where it is lacking;

(g) To make mapping organizations aware of the importance of using standardized geographical names;

(h) To maintain liaison with international organizations dealing with related subjects and encourage group divisions to participate in the United Nations regional or other cartographic conferences;

(i) To work at the highest possible national, international and United Nations level to interrelate toponymy and cartography;

(j) To make standardization principles and standardized geographical names available as practical information for as wide a user community as possible, through all appropriate media.

Membership and composition

186. At present, the Group is composed of some 40 experts from 30 countries, organized into 21 linguistic/geographical divisions. Within this Group, several working groups have been created to carry out special tasks, such as the setting up of training courses in toponymy, the comparative study of the various systems of transliteration towards a single romanization system for each of the non-Roman writing systems and the production of international gazetteers.

Reporting procedure

187. The Group of Experts normally reports to the United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names.

Frequency of meetings

188. The Group of Experts normally meets biennially. In years when a United Nations conference on the standardization of geographical names is held, it meets on dates immediately preceding the opening date of the conference and immediately following the closing date of the conference.

E. Expert bodies composed of members serving in their personal capacity

1. Committee for Development Planning

Terms of reference

189. The Council, in resolution 1035 (XXXVII) of 15 August 1964, requested the Secretary-General "to consider, as the work of United Nations bodies on economic planning and projections progressed, the establishment of a group of experts in planning theory and practice to work as a consultative body within the United Nations". Pursuant to that recommendation, the Committee for Development Planning was established in 1965. In its decision 1995/215 of 10 February 1995, the Council reaffirmed the mandate of the Committee.

190. Its original terms of reference are contained in paragraph 3 of Council resolution 1079 (XXXIX) of 28 July 1965. The terms of reference have been subsequently modified by various requests addressed to the Committee in General Assembly resolutions 2084 (XX) and 2096 (XX) of 20 December 1965, 2564 (XXIV) of 13 December 1969, 44/212 of 22 December 1989, and 46/206 of 20 December 1991, as well as in Council resolutions 1089 (XXXIX) of 31 July 1965 and 1625 (LI) of 30 July 1971. As consolidated, the terms of reference read as follows:

(a) To assess world development trends and prospects;

(b) To undertake every three years a general review of the list of the least developed among the developing countries with a view to identifying which countries should be included in or graduated from the list;

(c) To consider possible improvements in the criteria for identifying the least developed among the developing countries and the applications of those criteria;

(d) To prepare comments and recommendations in relation to the content of international development strategies and to assist the Council in its activities relating to the biennial overall appraisal of progress in implementing them;

(e) To concentrate its efforts on all those avenues that lead to efficient implementation of development plans;

(f) To consider and evaluate the programmes and activities of the organs of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies relating to economic planning and projections and to propose measures for their improvement for consideration by the Council;

(g) To consider and evaluate, inter alia, the progress made, within the framework of the activities of the United Nations and the specialized agencies, in the transfer of knowledge to developing countries and in the training of personnel of those countries in economic planning and projection;

(h) To analyse, with the help of the organs of the United Nations and of the specialized agencies, the major trends of planning and programming in the

world, the principal problems and the solutions they are receiving, and in particular the progress made in that connection relevant to the development of the less-developed regions;

(i) To study individual questions in the field of economic planning and programming referred to it by the Council, by the Secretary-General or by the executive heads of the specialized agencies;

(j) To make any suggestions it may consider useful concerning the scope of its terms of reference.

Membership and composition

191. In accordance with paragraph 3 of Council resolution 1625 (LI), the Committee has 24 members. They serve in their individual capacities as experts and not as the representatives of States, and are appointed by the Council, on nomination of the Secretary-General after consultation with interested Governments. The members are selected with a view to ensuring a high level of practical and academic experience in development policy design and implementation and adequate geographical and gender balance.

Terms of office

192. The term of office is three years.

Reporting procedure

193. The Committee reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

194. In accordance with Council resolution 1768 (LIV), the Committee meets annually.

Working groups

195. In order to enable the Committee to carry out its tasks efficiently, the Council decided, in resolution 1625 (LI), to permit the Committee to continue its existing practice of holding meetings of up to three working groups, which are each composed of five to eight members of the Committee, plus experts to supplement the experience of the Committee members.

196. The Committee has at present three working groups. In addition to helping the Committee to carry out the functions assigned to it by the Council in its resolutions 1079 (XXXIX) and 1625 (LI), the working groups also assist the Committee in the task of overall appraisal of the progress in implementing the International Development Strategy and examination of the economic situation of particular countries with a view to their inclusion in the list of the least developed countries, as requested by the Council and the General Assembly.

2. Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance

Terms of reference

197. The Council, in its resolution 1199 (XLII) of 24 May 1967, requested the Secretary-General to elaborate more specific objectives and programmes in the field of public administration, in close collaboration with the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations concerned. It also decided that the United Nations programme in public administration should from time to time be reviewed by a meeting of experts and that the report of the meeting should be submitted to it for consideration.

198. In subsequent resolutions, the Council has invited the Secretary-General to convene the meeting of experts and has given it specific guidelines for consideration. Those guidelines have included, in particular, an examination of changes and trends in public administration and finance at both the national and international levels, a review of issues and priorities in public administration and finance for development in developing countries, and the progress achieved in implementing the relevant provisions of the International Development Strategy. The recommendations of the meeting of experts are generally transmitted by the Secretary-General to Member States for their review and appropriate action.

199. The twelfth meeting of the Group of Experts on Public Administration and Finance was held from 31 July to 11 August 1995. The following thematic areas were considered at the meeting: (a) policy development capacity and administrative restructuring, civil service reform and management training; (b) financial management; (c) human resources development; (d) public-private interaction; (e) public sector efficiency; (f) social development; (g) infrastructure and the environment; (h) legal and regulatory framework; (i) post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction of government machinery; and (j) management of development programmes.

200. In its resolution 49/136 of 19 December 1994, the General Assembly requested that the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the twelfth meeting be submitted to it, through the Council. The report (A/50/525-E/1995/122, annex) was considered by the Council at its resumed organizational session for 1996 (see Council decision 1996/215 of 2 April 1996) and by the Assembly at its resumed fiftieth session in April 1996 (see Assembly resolution 50/225 of 19 April 1996).

Membership and composition

201. Experts attending the meetings have been invited by the Secretary-General in their individual capacities from countries in different stages of development and under different political and administrative systems within Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe. In addition to experts, all the United Nations regional commissions and specialized agencies (including the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)) and selected global and regional non-governmental organizations in the

area of public administration and finance are also invited as observers to the meeting of experts.

Reporting procedure

202. The meeting reports to the Council (Council resolution 1199 (XLII)).

Frequency of meetings

203. There is no mandated periodicity, although meetings are generally held on a biennial basis.

3. Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

Terms of reference

204. The Council, in its resolution 1273 (XLIII) of 4 August 1967, requested the Secretary-General to set up a group of experts to explore, in consultation with interested international agencies, ways and means for facilitating the conclusion of tax treaties between developed and developing countries, including the formulation, as appropriate, of possible guidelines and techniques for use in such tax treaties that would be acceptable to both groups of countries and would fully safeguard their respective revenue interests.

205. In its resolution 1765 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, the Council requested the Ad Hoc Group to continue its work on guidelines for tax treaties between developed and developing countries and to study the implementation of tax agreements, in such areas as income allocation, international tax evasion and avoidance and tax incentives. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements for convening the Ad Hoc Group at regular intervals.

206. In its resolution 1980/13 of 28 April 1980, the Council endorsed the recommendation of the Secretary-General contained in his report (E/1980/11 and Corr.1, para. 52) that, since the Group of Experts on Tax Treaties between Developed and Developing Countries had finalized the United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries, it should be given a broader title. The Council also indicated that the new title would be "Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters". In the same resolution, the Council entrusted the Ad Hoc Group of Experts with the task of examining the question of international tax evasion and avoidance "with a view to working out, as soon as possible, proposals for international cooperation to combat such evasion and avoidance".

Membership and composition

207. The Ad Hoc Group of Experts consists of 25 tax experts (Council decision 1980/155 of 18 July 1980) from 10 developed and 15 developing countries, nominated by Governments but acting in their personal capacity.

Reporting procedure

208. Pursuant to the request of the Council in paragraph 5 of its resolution 1980/13, the Secretary-General submits to the Council a report on the meeting of the Group of Experts.

Frequency of meetings

209. Although ad hoc, the Group of Experts generally meets biennially.

4. Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Terms of reference

210. The Council, in its decision 1978/10 of 3 May 1978, decided to establish a sessional working group on the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for the purpose of assisting the Council in the consideration of reports submitted by States parties to the International Covenant, in conformity with article 16 of the Covenant and in accordance with the programme established by the Council in its resolution 1988 (LX) of 11 May 1976, under which the States parties were to furnish in biennial stages the reports referred to in article 16 of the Covenant.

211. The Council, in its resolution 1979/43 of 11 May 1979, also entrusted the Working Group with the task of considering the reports of the specialized agencies, submitted to the Council in accordance with article 18 of the Covenant and the programme established under Council resolution 1988 (LX), on the progress made in achieving the observance of the provisions of the Covenant falling within the scope of their activities.

212. By Council resolution 1982/33 of 6 May 1982, the Working Group was renamed the "Sessional Working Group of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights". By Council resolution 1985/17 of 28 May 1985, the Sessional Working Group was renamed the "Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights".

213. The procedures and methods of work established by the Council in its resolutions 1988 (LX), 1979/43 and 1982/33 and decisions 1978/10 and 1981/158 remain in force insofar as they are not superseded or modified by Council resolution 1985/17. In that resolution, the Council decided that the experts should serve in their personal capacities. The Council, in its decision 1990/251 of 25 May 1990, approved the Committee's provisional rules of procedure and also approved the holding of a pre-sessional working group of the Committee one to three months prior to the session.

Membership and composition

214. In accordance with Council resolution 1985/17, the Committee has 18 members who are experts with recognized competence in the field of human rights, serving in their personal capacity, due consideration being given to equitable geographical distribution and to the representation of different forms of social

and legal systems; to this end, 15 seats are equally distributed among the regional groups, while the additional 3 seats are allocated in accordance with the increase in the total number of States parties per regional group. The members of the Committee are elected by the Council by secret ballot from a list of persons nominated by States parties to the International Covenant.

Frequency of meetings and reporting procedure

215. The Committee holds two annual sessions (Council resolution 1995/39, para. 1) and reports directly to the Council. Its report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

5. Committee on Natural Resources

Terms of reference

216. The Committee on Natural Resources was established as a standing committee by the Council in its resolution 1535 (XLIX) of 27 July 1970. In that resolution, the Council also set out the Committee's terms of reference. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/235 of 13 April 1992, the Council, in its decision 1992/218 of 30 April 1992, abolished the original Committee and established it as a committee of government-nominated experts.

217. In its resolution 1992/62 of 31 July 1992, the Council reaffirmed the following terms of reference for the newly established Committee on Natural Resources:

(a) Assistance to the Council in providing guidance in the programming and implementation of activities in the United Nations system for the development of mineral and water resources, keeping in mind requirements for planning for the present and forthcoming United Nations International Development Decades, and for the protection of the human environment and the sustainable development of mineral and water resources, and new technological developments in those fields;

(b) The establishment of guidelines for the provision and for the improvement and strengthening of advisory services to the Governments of Member States, to be made available at their request, for the planning, development and utilization of their mineral and water resources within the framework of their overall development plans;

(c) The substantive review of global surveys concerning mineral and water resources;

(d) The analysis of existing resolutions in the field of mineral and water resources, with a view to recommending the consolidation and streamlining of their legislative basis;

(e) The selection and follow-up of priority questions concerning long-term problems and trends of worldwide significance in the field of mineral and water resources;

(f) The examination of reports concerning operational and research activities in connection with mineral and water resources, including reports from relevant panels and seminars already in the programme and from such as may develop;

(g) Appropriate attention to the problems of research promotion and of the exchange and dissemination of experience and information in the fields of development, utilization and conservation of mineral and water resources;

(h) Recommendations to the Council and, through the Council, to Governments and also to other bodies, such as the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, on appropriate priorities, programme emphasis and other relevant matters concerning the sustainable development of mineral and water resources;

(i) Assistance to the Council and the Committee for Programme and Coordination in maintaining the necessary liaison between the activities in the field of mineral and water resources of the regional commissions, the specialized agencies, the International Atomic Energy Agency and other bodies doing relevant work, with a view to ensuring the utmost efficiency and cooperation;

(j) Such other relevant functions as the Council may assign to the Committee from time to time.

Membership and composition

218. The Committee is composed of 24 government-nominated experts (General Assembly resolution 46/235, annex, para. 7 (b) (ii)) who are elected by the Council on the basis of the pattern of membership as set out in Council decision 1992/222 of 29 May 1992:

(a) Six members from African States;

(b) Five members from Asian States;

(c) Four members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Six members from Western European and other States;

(e) Three members from Eastern European States.

The experts on the Committee, who act in their personal capacity, are to possess the necessary qualifications and professional or scientific knowledge.

Term of office

219. The term of office of members is four years (General Assembly resolution 46/235, annex, para. 7 (b) (ii)).

Reporting procedure

220. The Committee reports directly to the Council (ibid., para. 7 (b) (iv)). The report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

221. The Committee has two working groups, one on minerals and one on water resources (ibid., para. 7 (b) (ii)), and meets biennially in even-numbered years for two weeks (ibid., para. 7 (b) (v)).

6. Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development

Terms of reference

222. In section II of its resolution 37/250 of 21 December 1982, the General Assembly established, as a standing body, the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy pursuant to the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, which was held at Nairobi from 10 to 21 August 1981. In accordance with Assembly resolution 46/235, the Council, in its decision 1992/218 of 30 April 1992, established the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development.

223. The terms of reference of the newly established Committee, reaffirmed by the Council in its resolution 1992/62, include the mandate of the original Committee (see General Assembly resolution 37/250, sect. II), which reads as follows:

> "(a) Recommending policy guidelines for different organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in regard to new and renewable sources of energy, on the basis of the Nairobi Programme of Action (for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy); 14/
>
> "(b) Formulating and recommending action-oriented plans and programmes for carrying out the Nairobi Programme of Action in accordance with the priorities identified in paragraphs 47 to 56 of that Programme;
>
> "(c) Keeping under review and modifying as may be necessary the priorities established in paragraphs 47 to 56 of the Nairobi Programme of Action;
>
> "(d) Reviewing and assessing trends and policy measures related to the development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy, with a view to increasing their contributions to meeting future overall energy requirements;
>
> "(e) Promoting the mobilization of the resources required in the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action;

"(f) Recommending guidelines to the financial organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the financing of the activities related to the implementation of the measures of the Nairobi Programme of Action, and helping to ensure the implementation of the measures listed in section III of the Programme relating to financial resources;

"(g) Monitoring the implementation and helping to ensure coordination of the measures established in the Nairobi Programme of Action as well as of the activities of the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system in the field of new and renewable sources of energy;

"(h) Being informed of, drawing upon and contributing to the work and expertise of governmental and other intergovernmental institutions in the field of new and renewable sources of energy;

"(i) Reviewing the activities of the United Nations system in the field of new and renewable sources of energy and the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action, and where necessary making recommendations on the adaptation of the Programme."

The terms of reference also include consideration of the relation of energy to environment and development, that portion of the original mandate of the Committee on Natural Resources relating to energy and the follow-up of the relevant provisions on energy and related issues contained in Agenda 21 (see Assembly resolution 47/190 of 22 December 1992 and Council resolution 1992/62 of 31 July 1992).

Membership and composition

224. The Committee is composed of 24 government-nominated experts (General Assembly resolution 46/235, annex, para. 7 (c) (ii)) who are elected by the Council on the basis of the pattern of membership as set out in Council decision 1992/222 of 29 May 1992:

(a) Six members from African States;

(b) Five members from Asian States;

(c) Four members from Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Three members from Eastern European States;

(e) Six members from Western European and other States.

The experts on the Committee, who act in their personal capacity, are to possess the necessary qualifications and professional or scientific knowledge.

Term of office

225. The term of office of members is four years (General Assembly resolution 46/235, annex, para. 7 (c) (ii)).

Reporting procedure

226. The Committee reports directly to the Council (ibid., para. 7 (c) (iv)). The report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

227. The Committee meets biennially for two weeks (ibid., para. 7 (c) (v)).

F. Related bodies

1. International Narcotics Control Board

Terms of reference

228. The International Narcotics Control Board was established pursuant to article 9 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, 15/ as amended by the 1972 Protocol. 16/

229. The Board, in cooperation with Governments, and subject to the terms of the Convention, endeavours to limit the cultivation, production, manufacture and use of drugs to an adequate amount required for medical and scientific purposes, to ensure their availability for such purposes and to prevent the illicit cultivation, production and manufacture of, and illicit trafficking in and use of, drugs (Single Convention, art. 9, para. 4).

Membership and composition

230. In accordance with article 9, paragraph 1, of the Single Convention, the Board consists of 13 members to be elected by the Council as follows:

(a) Three members with medical, pharmacological or pharmaceutical experience from a list of at least five persons nominated by the World Health Organization;

(b) Ten members from a list of persons nominated by the Members of the United Nations and by Parties to the Convention that are not Members of the United Nations.

231. The Council, with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation, is to give consideration to the importance of including on the Board, in equitable proportion, persons possessing a knowledge of the drug situation in the producing, manufacturing and consuming countries, and connected with such countries (ibid., para. 3).

Term of office

232. The term of office of members is five years and members may be re-elected (ibid., art. 10, para. 1). The term of office of each member of the Board ends

on the eve of the first meeting of the Board that his or her successor is entitled to attend (ibid., para. 2).

Reporting procedure

233. A summary of the report of the Board is submitted annually to the Council.

Frequency of meetings

234. The Board meets as often as, in its opinion, may be necessary for the proper discharge of its functions (ibid., art. 11, para. 2). It usually holds two or three sessions in each calendar year.

2. Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Terms of reference

235. The Institute was established by the Council in its resolution 1998 (LX) of 12 May 1976 in conformity with General Assembly resolution 3520 (XXX) of 15 December 1975, in which the Assembly decided in principle to establish the Institute, based on a recommendation made by the World Conference of the International Women's Year, held at Mexico City from 19 June to 2 July 1975. The Institute is an autonomous institution, funded from voluntary contributions, within the framework of the United Nations that was established in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations to serve as a vehicle on the international level for the purpose of undertaking research and establishing training programmes to contribute to the integration and mobilization of women in development, to raise awareness of women's issues worldwide and better to assist women to meet new challenges and directions (A/39/511, annex, article I).

236. According to its Statute (A/39/511, annex), which was approved by the Council in its decision 1984/124 of 24 May 1984 and endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 39/249 of 9 April 1985, the objectives of the Institute are to stimulate and assist, through research, training and the collection and dissemination of information, the advancement of women and their integration in the developmental process both as participants and as beneficiaries (ibid., article II).

237. Its principal functions are:

(a) To conduct research and studies that would enhance the effective integration and mobilization of women in development;

(b) To establish training programmes, including a fellowship programme and advisory services;

(c) To establish and maintain a system of information, documentation and communication so as to enable the Institute to respond to the need for disseminating information worldwide on women's issues.

Membership and composition

238. In accordance with article III, paragraph 2, of the Statute of the Institute, the Board is composed of 11 members nominated by States and appointed by the Council with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical distribution. A representative of the Secretary-General, the Director of the Institute, a representative of each of the regional commissions, and a representative of the host country serve as ex officio members of the Board.

239. The responsibilities of the Board are:

(a) To formulate principles, policies and guidelines for the activities of the Institute;

(b) To consider and approve the work programme and budget proposals of the Institute on the basis of recommendations submitted to it by the Director of the Institute;

(c) To make recommendations necessary or desirable for the operation of the Institute;

(d) To report periodically to the Council and, where appropriate, to the General Assembly.

Term of office

240. The term of office of members of the Board is three years and they are eligible for reappointment for one further term (ibid., art. III, para. 2).

Frequency of meetings and reporting procedure

241. The Board meets and reports to the Council annually.

3. Committee for the United Nations Population Award

Terms of reference

242. The United Nations Population Award was established by the General Assembly in its resolution 36/201 of 17 December 1981 as amended by the Assembly in its decision 41/445 of 5 December 1986. The Regulations Governing the Award are contained in the annex to Assembly resolution 36/201, which was also amended in Assembly decision 41/445.

Membership and composition

243. The Committee for the United Nations Population Award is composed of 10 representatives of States Members of the United Nations, elected by the Council, with due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation and the need to include those Member States that have made contributions for the Award. The Secretary-General and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund serve as ex officio members.

Term of office

244. The term of office of members of the Committee is three years (General Assembly resolution 36/210, annex, art. 4, para. 1 (a)).

Reporting procedure

245. The Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund, on behalf of the Committee, reports to the General Assembly annually.

Frequency of meetings

246. The Committee meets once a year (ibid., art. 5, para. 3).

4. Programme Coordination Board of the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

Terms of reference

247. The Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS) was established by the Council in its resolution 1994/24 of 26 July 1994 and comprises the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Health Organization, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the World Bank. The Programme outline is contained in the annex to Council resolution 1994/24.

248. Following its consideration of the report of the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations of the Programme (see E/1995/71), the Council, in its resolution 1995/2 of 3 July 1995, endorsed the arrangements for the Programme Coordination Board as set out in section VI of that report. The Board serves as the governance structure for the Programme, and is composed of Member States, with the participation of the six co-sponsors and eligible non-governmental organizations. Its functions are as follows:

(a) To establish broad policies and priorities for the Programme, taking into account the provisions of General Assembly resolution 47/199 of 22 December 1992;

(b) To make recommendations to the co-sponsoring organizations regarding their activities in support of the Programme, including those of mainstreaming;

(c) To review and decide upon the planning and execution of the Programme;

(d) To review and approve the plan of action and budget for each financial period, longer-term plans of action and their financial implications, and the annual financial statements;

(e) To review periodic reports that evaluate the progress of the Programme towards the achievement of its goals.

Membership and composition

249. The Board comprises 22 members, elected by the Council (Council decision 1995/223 of 5 May 1995) according to the following pattern:

(a) Five seats for African States;

(b) Five seats for Asian States;

(c) Two seats for Eastern European States;

(d) Three seats for Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Seven seats for Western European and other States.

The arrangements for the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Board are outlined in the annex to Council resolution 1995/2.

Term of office

250. The term of office is three years.

Reporting procedures

251. The Board reports to the Council as requested.

II. SUBSIDIARY BODIES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS

A. Standing bodies 17/

1. High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries

Terms of reference

252. The General Assembly, in its resolution 33/134 of 19 December 1978, having recognized the role of technical cooperation among developing countries for initiating, designing, organizing and promoting cooperation so that developing countries can create, acquire, adapt, transfer and pool knowledge and experience for their mutual benefit and for achieving national and collective self-reliance and having declared that the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, held at Buenos Aires from 30 August to 12 September 1978, was a major step in the strengthening of cooperation among developing countries and that the implementation of its recommendations constituted a major contribution in the evolution of international cooperation for development and in the establishment of the new international economic order, endorsed the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing

Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries 18/ as an important instrument of the international community to intensify and strengthen cooperation among developing countries, and decided to entrust the overall intergovernmental review of technical cooperation among developing countries within the United Nations system to a high-level meeting of representatives of all States participating in UNDP to be convened by the Administrator of the Programme in accordance with the provisions of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

253. In its resolution 35/202 of 16 December 1980, the General Assembly decided that the High-level Meeting should be called the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, with the same functions and frame of reference as those outlined in recommendation 37 and other relevant recommendations of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action.

Reporting procedure

254. The Committee reports to the General Assembly through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Executive Board and the Council. Its reports are presented as supplements to the Official Records of the General Assembly.

Frequency of meetings

255. The Committee meets once every two years in odd-numbered years.

2. United Nations Children's Fund

Terms of reference

256. The United Nations Children's Fund was first created by the General Assembly in its resolution 57 (I) of 11 December 1946 under the name "International Children's Emergency Fund" as a temporary fund "to be utilized for the benefit of children and adolescents of countries which were the victims of aggression". In paragraph 3 of the same resolution, the Assembly decided that the "Fund shall be administered by an Executive Director under policies, including the determination of programmes and allocation of funds, established by an Executive Board in accordance with such principles as might be laid down by the Economic and Social Council and its Social Commission".

257. The terms of reference of the Fund were set out as follows in paragraph 1 of General Assembly resolution 57 (I):

> "(a) For the benefit of children and adolescents of countries which were victims of aggression and in order to assist in their rehabilitation;
>
> "(b) For the benefit of children and adolescents of countries at present receiving assistance from the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration;
>
> "(c) For child health purposes generally, giving high priority to the children of countries victims of aggression."

258. The General Assembly, in its resolution 417 (V) of 1 December 1950, "recognizing the necessity for continued action to relieve the sufferings of children, particularly in underdeveloped countries and countries that had been subjected to the devastation of war and to other calamities", decided "that during the period of the Fund's existence ... the Board, in accordance with such principles as may be laid down by the Economic and Social Council and its Social Commission, shall, with due regard to the urgency of the needs and available resources, formulate the policies, determine the programmes and allocate the resources of the Fund for the purpose of meeting, through the provision of supplies, training and advice, emergency and long-range needs of children and their continuing needs particularly in underdeveloped countries, with a view to strengthening, wherever this may be appropriate, the permanent child health and child welfare programmes of the countries receiving assistance; that the Executive Board shall take all necessary steps to ensure close collaboration between the Administration of the Fund and the specialized agencies, pursuant to the agreements between the United Nations and the specialized agencies; ... that the General Assembly will again consider the future of the Fund at the expiration of three years, with the object of continuing the Fund on a permanent basis".

259. The Fund was placed on a permanent footing by the General Assembly in its resolution 802 (VIII) of 6 October 1953, as the Assembly reaffirmed the pertinent provisions of its resolutions 57 (I) and 417 (V), with the exception of any reference to time limits contained in those resolutions. In the same resolution, the Assembly decided to change the name of the organization to the "United Nations Children's Fund, retaining the symbol UNICEF".

Membership and composition of the Executive Board of UNICEF

260. According to paragraph 22 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 48/162 of 20 December 1993, the functions of the Executive Board are:

(a) To implement the policies formulated by the Assembly and the coordination and guidance received from the Council;

(b) To receive information from and give guidance to the head of UNICEF on its work;

(c) To ensure that the activities and operational strategies of UNICEF are consistent with the overall policy guidance set forth by the Assembly and the Council, in accordance with their respective responsibility as set out in the Charter;

(d) To monitor the performance of UNICEF;

(e) To approve programmes, including country programmes, as appropriate;

(f) To decide on administrative and financial plans and budgets;

(g) To recommend new initiatives to the Council and, through the Council, to the Assembly, as necessary;

(h) To encourage and examine new programme initiatives;

(i) To submit annual reports to the Council at its substantive session, which could include recommendations, where appropriate, for improvement of field-level coordination.

261. In accordance with the provisions of annex I to General Assembly resolution 48/162, the Executive Board consists of 36 members, to be elected by the Council from States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, subject to the following conditions:

(a) Eight seats for African States;

(b) Seven seats for Asian States;

(c) Four seats for Eastern European States;

(d) Five seats for Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Twelve seats for Western European and other States.

Term of office

262. The term of office of members is three years.

Reporting procedure

263. The Executive Board reports to the Council. Its reports are presented as supplements to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

264. The Executive Board holds three regular sessions and one annual session per year.

3. United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

Terms of reference

265. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) was established as an organ of the General Assembly and given its terms of reference by the Assembly in its resolution 1995 (XIX) of 30 December 1964. The principal functions of the Conference were given in section II, paragraph 3, of the resolution and are the following:

"(a) To promote international trade, especially with a view to accelerating economic development, particularly trade between countries at different stages of development, between developing countries and between countries with different systems of economic and social organization,

taking into account the functions performed by existing international organizations;

"(b) To formulate principles and policies on international trade and related problems of economic development;

"(c) To make proposals for putting the said principles and policies into effect and to take such other steps within its competence as may be relevant to this end, having regard to differences in economic systems and stages of development;

"(d) Generally, to review and facilitate the coordination of activities of other institutions within the United Nations system in the field of international trade and related problems of economic development, and in this regard to cooperate with the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council with respect to the performance of their responsibilities for coordination under the Charter of the United Nations;

"(e) To initiate action, where appropriate, in cooperation with the competent organs of the United Nations for the negotiation and adoption of multilateral legal instruments in the field of trade, with due regard to the adequacy of existing organs of negotiation and without duplication of their activities;

"(f) To be available as a centre for harmonizing the trade and related development policies of Government and regional economic groupings in pursuance of Article 1 of the Charter;

"(g) To deal with any other matters within the scope of its competence."

266. The General Assembly, in its resolution 31/159 of 21 December 1976, affirmed, in the context of section I of Conference resolution 90 (IV), that "the functions mentioned therein should be strengthened in order to increase the effectiveness of the Conference as an organ of the General Assembly for deliberation, negotiation, review and implementation in the field of international trade and related issues of international economic cooperation which would play a major role in the improvement of the conditions of international trade, the acceleration of the growth of the world economy, including in particular the economic development of developing countries, and in the realization of the objectives of Assembly resolutions 3201 (S-VI), 3202 (S-VI), 3281 (XXIX) and 3362 (S-VII)".

267. In paragraph 18 of the annex to its resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977, on the conclusions and recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Restructuring of the Economic and Social Sectors of the United Nations System, the General Assembly decided that, in the light of its resolution 31/159, appropriate measures should be taken to enable UNCTAD, within available resources, effectively to play the major role envisaged in Conference resolution 90 (IV) as an organ of the Assembly for deliberation, negotiation, review and implementation in the field of international trade and related areas of international economic cooperation, bearing in mind the need to maintain its

close and cooperative relationship with the Assembly and to cooperate with the Council in carrying out the Council's responsibilities under the Charter.

268. In its resolution 34/196 of 19 December 1979, the General Assembly endorsed Conference resolution 114 (V) of 3 June 1979 on institutional issues and called for the necessary action for its full implementation. In particular in section I of resolution 114 (V), the Conference had invited the Assembly to take the necessary action for strengthening UNCTAD in accordance with the relevant provisions of Assembly resolutions 1995 (XIX) and 32/197 and Conference resolution 90 (IV), taking into account the mandates of other international organizations and bodies.

269. In its resolution 47/183 of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly endorsed the outcome of the eighth session of the Conference, including agreements by the Conference on its subsidiary machinery.

Trade and Development Board

270. The General Assembly, in paragraph 4 of its resolution 1995 (XIX), established the Trade and Development Board as part of the United Nations machinery in the economic field and outlined its functions in paragraphs 14 to 23 as follows:

(a) When the Conference is not in session, to carry out the functions that fall within the competence of the Conference;

(b) To keep under review and take appropriate action within its competence for the implementation of the recommendations, declarations, resolutions and other decisions of the Conference and to ensure the continuity of its work;

(c) To make or initiate studies and reports in the field of trade and related problems of development;

(d) To request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to prepare such reports, studies or other documents as it may deem appropriate;

(e) As required, to make arrangements to obtain reports from and establish links with intergovernmental bodies whose activities are relevant to its functions, and in order to avoid duplication to avail itself, whenever possible, of the relevant reports made to the Council and other United Nations bodies;

(f) To establish close and continuous links with the regional economic commissions of the United Nations and to establish such links with other relevant regional intergovernmental bodies;

(g) In its relations with organs and agencies within the United Nations system, to act in conformity with the responsibilities of the Council under the Charter, particularly those of coordination, and with the relationship agreements with the agencies concerned;

(h) To serve as a preparatory committee for future sessions of the Conference and, to that end, to initiate the preparation of documents, including

a provisional agenda, for consideration by the Conference, as well as make recommendations as to the appropriate date and place for its convening;

(i) To establish such subsidiary organs as may be necessary to the effective discharge of its functions.

Subsidiary bodies

271. Pursuant to decisions taken at the ninth session of UNCTAD (Midrand, South Africa, 1996), the Board has the following subsidiary bodies: (a) Working Party on the Medium-Term Plan and Programme Budget (see UNCTAD resolution 114 (V) of 3 June 1979 and Trade and Development Board decision 156 (XVII) of 1 September 1977); (b) Commission on Trade in Goods and Services, and Commodities; (c) Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues; and (d) Commission on Enterprise, Business Facilitation and Development.

Membership and composition

272. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 31/2 of 29 September 1976, the membership of the Board is open to all members of the Conference. The members of the Conference, as indicated in Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX), are those States that are Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

Reporting procedure

273. Paragraph 22 of General Assembly resolution 1995 (XIX) provides that "the Board shall report to the Conference and it shall also report annually on its activities to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. The Council may transmit to the Assembly such comments on the reports as it may deem necessary." The reports of the Board are presented as supplements to the Official Records of the General Assembly.

Frequency of meetings

274. In accordance with a decision taken at the ninth session of the Conference, the Board meets once a year. It may also meet in special session between the sessions of the Conference which are normally convened at intervals of not more than four years.

4. United Nations Development Fund for Women

Terms of reference

275. The United Nations Development Fund for Women has its origins in the voluntary fund for the International Women's Year (Council resolution 1850 (LVI) of 16 May 1974). At its thirtieth session, at its 2441st plenary meeting, on 15 December 1975, the General Assembly decided that the voluntary fund for the International Women's Year should be extended to cover the period of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace. In paragraph 1 of its resolution 31/133 of 16 December 1976, the Assembly adopted "the following

criteria and arrangements for the management of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women:

"(a) Criteria:

"The resources of the Fund should be utilized to supplement activities in the following areas designed to implement the goals of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, priority being given to the related programmes and projects of the least developed, land-locked and island countries among developing countries:

"(i) Technical cooperation activities;

"(ii) Development and/or strengthening of regional and international programmes;

"(iii) Development and implementation of joint interorganizational programmes;

"(iv) Research, data collection and analysis, relevant to (i), (ii) and (iii) above;

"(v) Communication support and public information activities designed to promote the goals of the Decade and, in particular, the activities undertaken under (i), (ii) and (iii) above;

"(vi) In the selection of projects and programmes, special consideration should be given to those which benefit rural women, poor women in urban areas and other marginal groups of women, especially the disadvantaged;

"(b) Arrangements:

"The General Assembly endorses the arrangements for the future management of the Fund contained in the annex to the present resolution."

276. In paragraph 3 of the same resolution, the Ceneral Assembly requested "the President of the Assembly to select ... five Member States each of which should appoint a representative to serve on the Consultative Committee on the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women to advise the Secretary-General on the application to the use of the Fund of the criteria set forth in paragraph 1 (of resolution 31/133)".

277. In paragraph 1 of its resolution 39/125 of 14 December 1984, the General Assembly decided "that the activities of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women shall be continued through establishment of a separate and identifiable entity in autonomous association with the United Nations Development Programme, which will play an innovative and catalytic role in relation to the United Nations overall system of development cooperation".

278. In the annex to that resolution, entitled "Arrangements for the management of the United Nations Development Fund for Women", it is indicated that the Fund

was established as a separate and identifiable entity in autonomous association with UNDP. The Administrator of UNDP was to be accountable for all aspects of the management and operations of the Fund and a Consultative Committee would advise the Administrator on all policy matters relating to the activities of the Fund. All operations of the Voluntary Fund for the United Nations Decade for Women were transferred to the Fund. It was decided that the resources of the Fund should be used mainly within two priority areas: first, to serve as a catalyst, with the goal of ensuring the appropriate involvement of women in mainstream development activities, as often as possible at the pre-investment stage; and second, to support innovative and experimental activities benefiting women in line with national and regional priorities.

279. In its resolution 40/104 of 13 December 1985, the General Assembly expressed "its satisfaction that the establishment of the United Nations Development Fund for Women, in autonomous association with the United Nations Development Programme, was effected on the agreed target date of 1 July 1985, in accordance with the arrangements set out in General Assembly resolution 39/125" and approved the name United Nations Development Fund for Women.

280. In its resolution 45/128 of 14 December 1990, the General Assembly stressed "the importance of the work for the Consultative Committee on the United Nations Development Fund for Women in policy and programme matters relating to the activities of the Fund".

Membership and composition of the Consultative Committee on the Fund and term of office of its members

281. In the annex to General Assembly resolution 39/125, the President of the Assembly is required to "designate with due regard for the financing of the Fund from voluntary contributions and to equitable geographical distribution, five Member States to serve on the Consultative Committee for a period of three years. Each State member of the Consultative Committee shall designate a person with relevant expertise and experience in development cooperation activities, including those benefiting women, to serve on the Committee". The five regional groups are represented on the Consultative Committee.

Reporting procedure

282. In its resolution 31/133, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report annually to it on the management of the Fund. In paragraph 12 of the annex to the resolution, it is further stated that "an annual report showing funds available, pledges and payments received and the expenditures made from the Fund shall be prepared by the Controller and submitted to the General Assembly and, as appropriate, to the Commission on the Status of Women".

283. As outlined in paragraphs 15 and 16 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 39/125, "the Director (of the Fund) shall prepare substantive and financial progress reports on the use of the Fund for the Administrator to submit to the Consultative Committee. Taking into account the advice of the Consultative Committee, the Administrator shall submit to the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme an annual report on the operations, management and budget of the Fund. He shall submit a similar report to the

General Assembly, to be referred to the Second Committee for consideration of its technical cooperation aspects and also to the Third Committee". The reports of the Administrator are issued as documents of the Assembly.

Frequency of meetings

284. The Consultative Committee meets twice a year.

5. United Nations Development Programme

Terms of reference

285. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) was established by the General Assembly in its resolution 2029 (XX) of 22 November 1965. In the resolution, the Assembly decided "to combine the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance and the Special Fund in a programme to be known as the United Nations Development Programme, it being understood that the special characteristics and operations of the two programmes, as well as two separate funds, will be maintained and that, as hitherto, contributions may be pledged to the two programmes separately". The Special Fund had been established by the Assembly in its resolution 1240 (XIII) of 14 October 1958 to provide, inter alia, "systematic and sustained assistance in fields essential to the integrated technical, economic and social development of the less developed countries". A Governing Council of the Special Fund was also established by the same resolution to "provide general policy guidance on the administration and operations of the Special Fund".

286. The General Assembly, in its resolution 2029 (XX), also established a Governing Council of UNDP "to perform the functions previously exercised by the Governing Council of the Special Fund and the Technical Assistance Committee, including the consideration and approval of projects and programmes and the allocation of funds; in addition, it shall provide general policy guidance and direction for the United Nations Development Programme as a whole, as well as for the United Nations regular programmes of technical assistance".

287. The basic principles and purposes of UNDP are outlined in detail in the annex to General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) of 11 December 1970. The responsibility of the Governing Council is set forth in paragraph 35 of the annex as follows: "The Governing Council has overall responsibility for ensuring that the resources of the Programme are employed with maximum efficiency and effectiveness in assisting the development of the developing countries."

288. As set out in paragraph (e) of the annex to General Assembly resolution 3405 (XXX) of 28 November 1975, the general guidelines for the orientation of UNDP were to ensure, inter alia, that:

"(i) The basic purpose of technical cooperation should be the promotion of self-reliance in developing countries ...;

"(ii) The selection of priority areas in which to seek the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme should remain the exclusive responsibility of the Governments of the recipient countries; in that context, the Programme should respond favourably to requests for meeting the most urgent and critical needs of each developing country, taking into account the importance of reaching the poorest and most vulnerable sections of their societies and enhancing the quality of their life;

"(iii) Technical cooperation should be seen in terms of output or the results to be achieved, rather than in terms of input;

"(iv) ... The United Nations should provide, where appropriate, equipment and material resources, adopt a more liberal policy towards local cost financing and be flexible in requirements for counterpart personnel;

"...

"(vii) ... Governments and institutions in recipient countries should be increasingly entrusted with the responsibility for executing projects assisted by the United Nations Development Programme;

"(viii) Technical cooperation should be provided at any of the levels and stages of the development process ...;

"(ix) ... The United Nations Development Programme should more often enter into partnership with capital assistance sources ...;

"(x) In the context of new dimensions of technical cooperation, special attention should be paid to the requirements of the least developed among the developing countries."

289. In its decision 94/14, the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA decided that "the overall mission of UNDP should be to assist programme countries in their endeavour to realize sustainable human development, in line with their national development programmes and priorities". 19/ In decision 95/22, the Executive Board urged UNDP, given poverty eradication as the overriding priority in the UNDP programmes, to concentrate on areas where it had demonstrable comparative advantage, in particular capacity-building in the most needed regions and countries, in particular the least developed countries, especially in Africa. 20/

290. Pursuant to those decisions, the mandate of UNDP is to help countries develop national capacity to achieve sustainable human development, giving overriding priority to eradicating poverty and building equity. Other vital objectives include the advancement of women, the regeneration of the environment and the creation of sustainable livelihoods. In its decision 96/29, the Executive Board of UNDP/UNFPA endorsed the UNDP mission statement.

Membership and composition of the Executive Board of UNDP

291. In paragraph 21 of annex I to its resolution 48/162, the General Assembly decided that the current governing body of UNDP/UNFPA should be transformed into an Executive Board, subject to the authority of the Council. According to paragraph 22 of the same annex, the functions of the Executive Board are the following:

(a) To implement the policies formulated by the Assembly and the coordination and guidance received from the Council;

(b) To receive information from and give guidance to the head of UNDP/UNFPA on its work;

(c) To ensure that the activities and operational strategies of UNDP/UNFPA are consistent with the overall policy guidance set forth by the Assembly and the Council, in accordance with their respective responsibility as set out in the Charter;

(d) To monitor the performance of UNDP/UNFPA;

(e) To approve programmes, including country programmes, as appropriate;

(f) To decide on administrative and financial plans and budgets;

(g) To recommend new initiatives to the Council and, through the Council, to the Assembly as necessary;

(h) To encourage and examine new programme initiatives;

(i) To submit annual reports to the Council at its substantive session, which could include recommendations, where appropriate, for improvement of field-level coordination.

292. In accordance with the provisions of annex I to General Assembly resolution 48/162, the Executive Board consists of 36 members, to be elected by the Council from among States Members of the United Nations or members of specialized agencies or of the International Atomic Energy Agency, subject to the following conditions:

(a) Eight seats for African States;

(b) Seven seats for Asian States;

(c) Five seats for Latin American and Caribbean States;

(d) Twelve seats for Western European and other States;

(e) Four seats for Eastern European States.

Term of office

293. The term of office of members is three years (General Assembly resolution 2813 (XXVI), para. 1 (d)).

Reporting procedure

294. The Executive Board reports to the Council. Its reports are presented as supplements to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

Frequency of meetings

295. The Executive Board holds three regular sessions and one annual session per year.

6. United Nations Environment Programme

Terms of reference

296. The General Assembly, in its resolution 2997 (XXVII) of 15 December 1972, "aware of the urgent need for a permanent institutional arrangement within the United Nations system for the protection and improvement of the environment," decided "to establish a Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme (with) the following main functions and responsibilities:

"(a) To promote international cooperation in the field of the environment and to recommend, as appropriate, policies to this end;

"(b) To provide general policy guidance for the direction and coordination of environmental programmes within the United Nations system;

"(c) To receive and review the periodic reports of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme, referred to in section II, paragraph 2 (of the resolution), on the implementation of environmental programmes within the United Nations system;

"(d) To keep under review the world environmental situation in order to ensure that emerging environmental problems of wide international significance receive appropriate and adequate consideration by Governments;

"(e) To promote the contribution of the relevant international scientific and other professional communities to the acquisition, assessment and exchange of environmental knowledge and information and, as appropriate, to the technical aspects of the formulation and implementation of environmental programmes within the United Nations system;

"(f) To maintain under continuing review the impact of national and international environmental policies and measures on developing countries, as well as the problem of additional costs that may be incurred by developing countries in the implementation of environmental programmes and

projects, and to ensure that such programmes and projects shall be compatible with the development plans and priorities of those countries;

"(g) To review and approve annually the programme of utilization of resources of the Environment Fund" (established in section III of the resolution).

297. In the same resolution, the General Assembly decided that "a small secretariat shall be established in the United Nations to serve as a focal point for environmental action and coordination within the United Nations system in such a way as to ensure a high degree of effective management".

Membership and composition of the Governing Council of UNEP

298. In accordance with section I, paragraph 1, of General Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII), the Governing Council is composed of 58 members elected by the Assembly on the following basis:

(a) Sixteen seats for African States;

(b) Thirteen seats for Asian States;

(c) Six seats for Eastern European States;

(d) Ten seats for Latin American and Caribbean States;

(e) Thirteen seats for Western European and other States.

Term of office

299. By its decision 43/406 of 24 October 1988, the General Assembly decided to change, beginning on 1 January 1990, the term of office of the members of the Governing Council from three to four years.

Reporting procedure

300. In section I, paragraph 3, of its resolution 2997 (XXVII), the General Assembly decided "that the Governing Council shall report annually to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council, which will transmit to the Assembly such comments on the report as it may deem necessary, particularly with regard to questions of coordination and to the relationship of environmental policies and programmes within the United Nations system to overall economic and social policies and priorities". The reports of the Governing Council are presented as supplements to the Official Records of the General Assembly.

Frequency of meetings

301. The Governing Council met annually until 1987. In its resolution 42/185 of 11 December 1987, the General Assembly decided "that there shall be no regular session of the Governing Council in 1988 and that beginning in 1989, the regular sessions of the Council shall be held in odd-numbered years".

7. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Terms of reference

302. In its resolution 319 (IV) of 3 December 1949, the General Assembly decided "to establish, as of 1 January 1951, a High Commissioner's Office for Refugees" and "to renew, no later than at its eighth regular session, the arrangements for the High Commissioner's Office for Refugees with a view to determining whether the Office should be continued beyond 31 December 1953". The Assembly decided subsequently to continue the Office of the High Commissioner for further periods of five years, as of 1 January 1954, by its resolutions 727 (VIII) of 23 October 1953, 1165 (XII) of 26 November 1957, 1783 (XVII) of 7 December 1962, 2294 (XXII) of 11 December 1967, 2957 (XXVII) of 12 December 1972, 32/68 of 8 December 1977, 37/196 of 18 December 1982, 42/108 of 7 December 1987, and 47/104 of 16 December 1992, the last resolution covering the period 1 January 1994 to 31 December 1998.

303. The annex to General Assembly resolution 319 (IV) provided that "the High Commissioner should be elected by the General Assembly, on the nomination of the Secretary-General, for a term of three years from 1 January 1951". The duration of subsequent mandates has varied never to exceed five years. The current High Commissioner was elected by the Assembly in its decision 45/319 of 21 December 1990 for a period of three years ending on 31 December 1993. In its decision 48/307 of 4 November 1993, the Assembly extended the term of office of the High Commissioner for a period of five years ending on 31 December 1998.

304. The terms of reference of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees were first set out in General Assembly resolution 319 (IV) and further elaborated in Assembly resolution 428 (V) of 14 December 1950, the annex to which contains the "Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees". According to paragraph 1 of the Statute, "the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, acting under the authority of the General Assembly, shall assume the function of providing international protection, under the auspices of the United Nations, to refugees who fall within the scope of the present Statute and of seeking permanent solutions for the problem of refugees by assisting governments and, subject to the approval of the governments concerned, private organizations to facilitate the voluntary repatriation of such refugees, or their assimilation within new national communities".

305. Under paragraph 8 of the Statute, "the High Commissioner shall provide for the protection of refugees falling under the competence of his Office by:

> "(a) Promoting the conclusion and ratification of international conventions for the protection of refugees, supervising their application and proposing amendments thereto;
>
> "(b) Promoting through special agreements with Governments the execution of any measures calculated to improve the situation of refugees and to reduce the number requiring protection;

"(c) Assisting governmental and private efforts to promote voluntary repatriation or assimilation within new national communities;

"(d) Promoting the admission of refugees, not excluding those in the most destitute categories, to the territories of States;

"(e) Endeavouring to obtain permission for refugees to transfer their assets and especially those necessary for their resettlement;

"(f) Obtaining from Governments information concerning the number and conditions of refugees in their territories and the laws and regulations concerning them;

"(g) Keeping in close touch with the Governments and intergovernmental organizations concerned;

"(h) Establishing contact in such manner as he may think best with private organizations dealing with refugee questions;

"(i) Facilitating the coordination of the efforts of private organizations concerned with the welfare of refugees."

Executive Committee of the Programme of the High Commissioner

306. At the request of the General Assembly in its resolution 1166 (XII) of 26 November 1957, the Council, in its resolution 672 (XXV) of 30 April 1958, established an Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to take the place of the Executive Committee of the United Nations Refugee Fund. The terms of reference of the Executive Committee were set forth in Assembly resolution 1166 (XII) as follows:

"(a) To give directives to the High Commissioner for the liquidation of the United Nations Refugee Fund;

"(b) To advise the High Commissioner, at his request, in the exercise of his functions under the statute of his Office;

"(c) To advise the High Commissioner as to whether it is appropriate for international assistance to be provided through his Office in order to help solve specific refugee problems remaining unsolved after 31 December 1958 or arising after that date;

"(d) To authorize the High Commissioner to make appeals for funds to enable him to solve the refugee problems referred to in subparagraph (c) above;

"(e) To approve projects for assistance to refugees coming within the scope of subparagraph (c) above;

"(f) To give directives to the High Commissioner for the use of the emergency fund to be established under the terms of paragraph 7" (of resolution 1166 (XII)).

Membership and composition of the Executive Committee

307. In General Assembly resolution 1166 (XII), the Assembly provides that the Executive Committee should "consist of representatives of ... States Members of the United Nations or members of any of the specialized agencies, to be elected by the Council on the widest geographical basis from those States with a demonstrated interest in, and devotion to, the solution of the refugee problem". The Executive Committee currently consists of 51 members.

Term of office

308. The term of office of members is normally for the duration of the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Reporting procedure

309. In accordance with paragraph 7 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 319 (IV), the High Commissioner reports annually to the Assembly through the Council. The Executive Committee reports likewise. The report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the General Assembly.

Frequency of meetings

310. The Executive Committee meets once a year.

8. United Nations Population Fund

Terms of reference

311. The United Nations Population Fund was established in 1967 as a trust fund (later named the United Nations Fund for Population Activities) by the Secretary-General in response to Council resolution 1084 (XXXIX) of 30 July 1965 and General Assembly resolution 2211 (XXI) of 17 December 1966 calling for an expanded programme of action in the field of population. Subsequently, the Secretary-General requested the Administrator of UNDP to administer the United Nations Fund for Population Activities.

312. The General Assembly, in paragraph 2 of its resolution 3019 (XXVII) of 18 December 1972, decided "to place the United Nations Fund for Population Activities under the authority of the General Assembly" and decided further, "without prejudice to the overall responsibilities and policy functions of the Economic and Social Council, that the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, subject to conditions to be established by the Economic and Social Council, shall be the governing body of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and invites the Governing Council to concern itself with the financial and administrative policies relating to the work programme, the fundraising methods and the annual budget of the Fund".

313. The General Assembly, in paragraph 3 of the same resolution, invited the Governing Council "to organize itself in such a way that it can exercise effectively these functions, taking into account the separate identity of the

United Nations Fund for Population Activities and its need to operate under the guidance of the Economic and Social Council, in close relationship with interested Governments and with appropriate international and national bodies, governmental and non-governmental, interested in population activities".

314. In paragraph 1 of its resolution 1763 (LIV) of 18 May 1973, the Council stated that "the aims and purposes of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities are:

"(a) To build up, on an international basis, with the assistance of the competent bodies of the United Nations system, the knowledge and the capacity to respond to national, regional, interregional and global needs in the population and family planning fields; to promote coordination in planning and programming; and to cooperate with all concerned;

"(b) To promote awareness, both in developed and in developing countries, of the social, economic and environmental implications of national and international population problems, of the human rights aspects of family planning, and of possible strategies to deal with them, in accordance with the plans and priorities of each country;

"(c) To extend systematic and sustained assistance to developing countries at their request in dealing with their population problems, such assistance to be afforded in forms and by means requested by the recipient countries and best suited to meet the individual country's needs;

"(d) To play a leading role in the United Nations system in promoting population programmes and to coordinate projects supported by the Fund".

315. The Council in paragraph 2 of the same resolution also decided "that the United Nations Fund for Population Activities should invite countries to utilize the most appropriate implementing agents for their programmes, recognizing that the primary responsibility for implementing rests with the countries concerned".

316. In resolution 2025 (LXI) of 4 August 1976, the Council endorsed the following general principles to be applied by UNFPA in making future allocations of resources:

"(a) To promote population activities proposed in international strategies, particularly the World Population Plan of Action;

"(b) To meet the needs of developing countries which have the most urgent need for assistance in the area of population activities, in view of their population problems;

"(c) To respect the sovereign right of each nation to formulate, promote and implement its own population policies;

"(d) To promote the recipient countries' self-reliance;

"(e) To give special attention to meeting the needs of disadvantaged population groups".

317. These five general principles and the request were later incorporated into General Assembly resolution 31/170 of 21 December 1976.

318. In its resolution 34/104 of 14 December 1979, the General Assembly, inter alia:

(a) Affirmed "that the United Nations Fund for Population Activities, placed under the authority of the General Assembly by resolution 3019 (XXVII), is a subsidiary organ of the Assembly in terms of Article 22 of the Charter of the United Nations, without prejudice to section V of the annex to Assembly resolution 32/197 of 20 December 1977 or to the mandates of other organizations of the United Nations system concerned with population";

(b) Invited "the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme to consider devoting a specific period of time during its sessions to adequate and separate consideration of items relating to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities";

(c) Invited "the Secretary-General to arrange, in consultation with the members of the Administrative Committee on Coordination, for the United Nations Fund for Population Activities to participate in all aspects of the work of that Committee and its subsidiary machinery";

(d) Reaffirmed "that the United Nations Fund for Population Activities should continue to avail itself of the services of the United Nations Development Programme, including those of its resident representatives".

319. By its decision 42/430 of 11 December 1987, the General Assembly changed the name of the Fund to the "United Nations Population Fund", while retaining the abbreviation "UNFPA", on the understanding that this change of name would in no way change the mandate, aims and purpose of the Fund or the role and functions of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme, the Economic and Social Council and the Assembly with respect to the Fund.

320. By its resolution 48/162, the General Assembly decided that the governing body of UNDP/UNFPA should be transformed into an Executive Board (see para. 291 above).

9. United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East

321. The General Assembly, by its resolution 302 (IV) of 8 December 1949, established the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) "to carry out in collaboration with local Governments the direct relief and works programmes as recommended by the Economic Survey Mission" (resolution 302 (IV), para. 7 (a)). The Assembly has extended the Agency's mandate several times, most recently until 30 June 1993, in its resolution 44/47 A of 8 December 1989.

322. In its resolution 302 (IV), the General Assembly also established an Advisory Commission to advise and assist the Director (now Commissioner-General) of the Agency in the execution of the programme.

323. In its resolution 2656 (XXV) of 7 December 1970, the General Assembly, having noted with grave concern the acute financial situation of the Agency, established "a Working Group on the Financing of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, consisting of nine Member States, to study all aspects of financing of the Agency", which was to assist the Secretary-General and Commissioner-General in reaching solutions to the problems posed by the Agency's financial crisis. The Assembly has annually extended the Working Group's mandate.

Reporting procedure

324. In paragraph 21 of its resolution 302 (IV), the General Assembly requested the Director (now Commissioner-General), who, by paragraph 9 (a) of the resolution was made responsible to the Assembly for the operation of the programme, to submit to the Assembly an annual report on the work of the Agency and to the Secretary-General such other reports as the Agency might wish to bring to the attention of the members of the United Nations, or its appropriate organs. The report is presented as a supplement to the Official Records of the General Assembly. The way in which the Agency is currently discharging its mandate is set out in detail in the report of the Commissioner-General for the period July 1990 to June 1991 (A/46/13 and Add.1).

10. World Food Programme

Terms of reference

325. The World Food Programme was established initially on an experimental basis, as a joint programme of the United Nations and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), by the General Assembly in its resolution 1714 (XVI) of 19 December 1961.

326. The Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes was established by the General Assembly in the same resolution under the name "United Nations/FAO Inter-governmental Committee" "to provide guidance on the policy, administration and operations" of the World Food Programme.

327. Under the provisions of paragraph 9 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 1714 (XVI), "subject to the guidance of the Inter-governmental Committee, the Programme will be carried on by a joint FAO/United Nations administrative unit. ... In the administration of the Programme attention should be paid to:

> "(a) Establishing adequate and orderly procedures on a world basis for meeting emergency food needs and emergencies inherent in chronic malnutrition (this could include the establishment of food reserves);
>
> "(b) Assisting in preschool and school feeding;
>
> "(c) Implementing pilot projects, with the multilateral use of food as an aid to economic and social development, particularly when related to labour-intensive projects and rural welfare".

328. The Programme was extended by the General Assembly in its resolution 2095 (XX) of 20 December 1965, "on a continuing basis for as long as multilateral food aid is found feasible and desirable, on the understanding that the Programme will be regularly reviewed before each pledging conference and that, if circumstances so require, it may be enlarged, curtailed or terminated at the end of any period for which resources have been pledged".

Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes

329. The General Assembly, in its resolution 3404 (XXX) of 28 November 1975, decided that "the United Nations/FAO Intergovernmental Committee of the World Food Programme shall be reconstituted as the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes" and that, "in addition to discharging the functions hitherto exercised by the Intergovernmental Committee, the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes shall help to evolve and coordinate short-term and longer-term food aid policies recommended by the World Food Conference and shall in particular:

"(a) Provide general guidance on the policy, administration and operation of the World Food Programme;

"(b) Provide a forum for intergovernmental consultations on national and international food aid programmes and policies;

"(c) Review periodically general trends in food aid requirements and availabilities;

"(d) Recommend to Governments, through the World Food Council, improvements in food aid policies and programmes on such matters as programme priorities, commodity composition of food aid and other related subjects;

"(e) Formulate proposals for the more effective coordination of multilateral, bilateral and non-governmental food aid programmes, including emergency food aid;

"(f) Review periodically the implementation of the recommendations made by the World Food Conference on food aid policies".

Transformation of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes into the Executive Board of the World Food Programme

330. In General Assembly resolution 48/162, in which the Assembly decided that the governing bodies of UNDP/UNFPA and of UNICEF should be transformed into Executive Boards, it also decided that the same arrangements should apply to the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes of the World Food Programme, and that consultations between the United Nations and FAO should be undertaken as soon as possible for that purpose in view of the fact that the World Food Programme was an autonomous joint organ of both (Assembly resolution 48/162, annex I, para. 30).

331. At its thirty-eighth session, held in Rome from 12 to 16 December 1994, the Committee for Food Aid Policies and Programmes considered the report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 47/199 and 48/162, which was to look into the necessary changes to the General Regulations of WFP and to present to the Committee draft revised General Regulations and a draft resolution for consideration by the General Assembly and the Conference of FAO, through the Economic and Social Council. The Committee approved the draft General Regulations and the draft General Assembly resolution (see E/1995/14 and Add.1).

332. At its resumed organizational session for 1995, the Council adopted decision 1995/227 of 6 June 1995, by which it decided to recommend to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session the adoption of a draft resolution entitled "Revision of the General Regulations of the World Food Programme and reconstitution of the Committee on Food Aid Policies and Programmes as the Executive Board of the World Food Programme". The Assembly adopted the draft resolution as Assembly resolution 50/8 on 1 November 1995. The Conference of FAO had adopted resolution 9/95, a parallel resolution to that of the Assembly, on 31 October 1995.

333. In accordance with those resolutions, the Committee has been reconstituted as the Executive Board of WFP, with 36 members elected from among the States Members of the United Nations or the States members of FAO, and the Economic and Social Council and the FAO Council are to elect 18 members each, as set forth in paragraph 2 of the resolution. The revised General Regulations (see E/1995/14, annex I) entered into force on 1 January 1996. The pattern of election of members is set out in Assembly resolution 50/8 and is to be reviewed at a later date.

Term of office

334. The term of office of members of the Executive Board is three years (General Assembly resolution 50/8, para. 5).

Reporting procedures

335. The Executive Board is subject to the authority of the Council and reports to the Council. Its reports are presented as supplement to the Official Records of the Economic and Social Council.

B. Ad hoc bodies

Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa

Terms of reference

336. In paragraph 2 of its resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992, the General Assembly decided "to establish, under its auspices, an Intergovernmental

Negotiating Committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, taking into account proposals that may be submitted by States participating in the negotiating process, with a view to finalizing such a convention by June 1994".

Membership, composition and results of work

337. In paragraph 3 of the same resolution, the General Assembly decided that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee should be open to all States Members of the United Nations or members of the specialized agencies, with the participation of observers in accordance with the established practice of the Assembly.

338. The result of the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee is the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (A/49/84/Add.2, annex, appendix II), which was adopted in Paris on 17 June 1994.

Reporting procedure

339. The Secretary-General reports to the General Assembly on the work of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee.

Frequency of meetings

340. Since its establishment, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee has had nine sessions. The tenth session is scheduled for 1997 (see General Assembly resolution 50/112) in preparation for the first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as specified in the Convention. Sessional reports have been issued as documents of the Assembly.

Notes

1/ Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

2/ See Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8, forthcoming), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

3/ See Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1).

4/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, 20-31 August 1979 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.79.I.21 and corrigenda), chap. VII.

5/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992 (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and

Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr.1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: Resolutions Adopted by the Conference, resolution I, annex II.

6/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1995, Supplement No. 12 (E/1995/32), chap. I, para. 204.

7/ Ibid., para. 204, annex I.

8/ Taking note of paragraph 10 of Declaration 1 (XXIX) of 4 May 1994 of the ECA Conference of Ministers, the Economic and Social Council decided to readmit South Africa as a member of the Commission (Council decision 1994/303 of 29 July 1994).

9/ Effective 1 July 1997, the name will be changed to Hong Kong, China (see Council resolution 1996/3 A of 18 July 1996).

10/ By its decision 1993/316 of 30 July 1993, the Council decided that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) should not participate in the work of the Commission as long as the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) did not participate in the work of the General Assembly.

11/ In accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/130 of 19 December 1994, the Commission on Transnational Corporations, formerly a standing committee of the Council, was integrated into the institutional machinery of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). It became a commission of the Trade and Development Board and was renamed the Commission on International Investment and Transnational Corporations. Pursuant to a recommendation of UNCTAD at its ninth session, it has since been renamed the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues. The Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting reports to that Commission. See paras. 265-274 below.

12/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 49 (A/41/49).

13/ In accordance with General Assembly resolution 49/130 of 19 December 1994, the Intergovernmental Working Group has been incorporated into the institutional machinery of UNCTAD.

14/ Report of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Nairobi, 10-21 August 1981 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.I.24), chap. I, sect. A.

15/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 520, No. 7515.

16/ Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.

17/ The Committee for Programme and Coordination is a subsidiary body of both Council and the General Assembly (see paras. 143-148 above).

18/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), part one, chap. I.

19/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 15 (E/1994/35/Rev.1), part three, chap. III.

20/ Ibid., 1995, Supplement No. 14 (E/1995/34), part three, chap. VI.